



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Residents Move to Block Pac Bell Antennas

By Denise Minor

Neighbors of the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. have launched a formidable battle to stop Pacific Bell Mobile Services from installing cellular phone transmitters in the church steeple.

"I just don't know that enough research has been done on the effects of these transmissions. They could be dangerous for the kids," said Steve Coleman of 159 Vicksburg St., the father of a newborn.

Coleman was one of 30 neighbors who signed a petition in mid-September asking the Ministry to deny Pac Bell's request to lease space on the roof for its mobile communications equipment. The 111-year-old church and community center is located at 23rd and Sanchez streets.

Accompanying the petition was a packet of news articles taken from the Internet that raised questions about the health risks, particularly cancer, posed by electromagnetic radiation. (Pac Bell wants to install a transceiver box and three antennas in the steeple, to pick up and relay signals from its PCS wireless phones. The equipment would emit non-ionizing radiation, the same type as that coming from TVs, microwave ovens, and clock radios.)

"I know that the Ministry would be paid for this, and they're \$60,000 in debt," continued Coleman. "But I'm amazed that a church would consider putting something like this in."

Pastor Joan Huff said she heard the neighbors' protests loud and clear at two informational meetings held by Pac Bell, one in August and another in September.

Huff has also received a load of information from the city's Health Department and scientists hired by Pac Bell. They claim that the emissions from the transmitter would be less than .02 percent of the federally allowable limit for radio frequency (RF) radiation.

At that level, there are no identifiable health risks, said Richard Lee, the Health Department's top industrial hygienist and the man in charge of reviewing all cell site applications in San Francisco.

"The FCC [Federal Communications Commission] set standards it feels are safe. Local communities cannot impose stricter standards than those set by the FCC. That was mandated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996," he said.

Lee said his department studied the FCC guidelines for two years and implemented the strictest regulations of any jurisdiction in the state. "We are constantly monitoring emissions," said Lee, noting that he personally spotchecks many of the 120 existing antenna sites around the city.

"I can tell you this about Pac Bell," he continued. "Their transmitters are not even hazardous if you touch them." Other cell phone antennas, like those of Pagenet and GTE, currently have higher emissions, he said.



Photo by Pamela Gerard

A Loving Farewell to Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa's death on Sept. 5 touched off mourning around the world. But the revered Nobel laureate was missed especially in Noe Valley, the site of her order's only North American training center for nuns.

The Missionaries of Charity established a novitiate at St. Paul's convent at 29th and Church streets in 1982. A statue of the Virgin Mary stands in the courtyard near the entrance.

About 40 women live in the convent and do charitable work in San Francisco as they prepare to become full-fledged members of Mother Teresa's order. They can often be seen walking in pairs in the neighborhood, wearing their distinctive flowing white robes.

In the wake of Mother Teresa's death, two masses were held in her honor at St. Paul's Church. A memorial service took place on Sept. 7. And on Sept. 14, several hundred mourners turned out for a special

mass presided over by San Francisco Archbishop William Levada. Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity led parishioners in hymns and afterwards spent the day in quiet prayer.

The local superior of the Missionaries of Charity, Sister Sharbel, was in Calcutta, India, for Mother Teresa's funeral, and other nuns declined to give interviews. But Sister Maureen O'Brien, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Paul's, recalled a visit Mother Teresa made to Noe Valley in the winter of 1991. The tiny nun spoke to the girls at St. Paul's High School. "They hung on her every word," Sister Maureen said. "She was so quiet and yet so charismatic. It was just really beautiful how she touched their lives."

Condolences or donations in Mother Teresa's memory can be sent to the Missionaries of Charity, 312 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. □

But there appears to be disagreement among scientists on the danger of these emissions. Cincinnati biophysicist W. Gregory Lotz told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in August that he believes cellular phone towers should not be built close to schools or other places where children gather. Lotz is chief of physical agents at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

"To err on the side of caution, you would not put them on school grounds," Lotz is quoted as saying. "I can't assure [parents] we aren't going to find something 10 years from now that we don't know now. It's a matter of making a decision on limited research and scientific information."

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Panos' Calls It Quits, Pasta Fills In

By Anne Gates

A Noe Valley favorite will be closing the kitchen after nearly 20 years on 24th Street. The owners of Panos' Restaurant at 24th and Noe announced last month that their dining establishment would be going out of business in mid-October.

Fans of Panos' classic and nouvelle Greek cuisine can order their favorite dishes until about Oct. 15, likely to be the final day of operation. An Italian restaurant, Pasta Pomodoro, will be moving in around the first of November.

Back in the late '70s, Panos' founder John Gianaras was living in Noe Valley on Jersey Street. John owned a restaurant in the South of Market area called Coliseum II, but he lamented the dearth of Greek restaurants in Noe Valley. When a grocery store vacated its corner storefront at 4000 24th St., John acquired the space. In 1978 he launched Panos', named after his father, Panos Gianaras (Panos is the Greek word for Peter).

John's wife Vi Gianaras took charge of the restaurant operation at Panos' in 1984. Three years later, she assumed the role of chef and started creating many of the salad, pasta, and seafood dishes still in demand today.

Vi says running a successful restaurant can be extremely time-consuming, and it's been especially demanding over the past decade. Now she would like to focus on her family and a part-time real estate career. "Closing the restaurant is my personal decision," Vi says, "a decision for myself and my whole family."

John and Vi Gianaras have two daughters, Kristen, 11, and Kathryn, 9. The couple also both put in stints as president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association during the 1980s.

Panos' Restaurant went through a major renovation some 10 years ago. The Gi-

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Photo by Pamela Gerard

Panos' may be closing, but after 20 years at 24th and Noe, there'll be lots of juicy memories for (left to right) chef Chet Reilly, owner/chef Vi Gianaras, line cook Carmen Becerra, and owner/founder John Gianaras.



It's Not Natural to Double-Park: A huge delivery truck crowds out the cars—and the jaywalkers—that usually scoot between Bell Market and Real Food Company on 24th Street.

Photo by Charles Kennard

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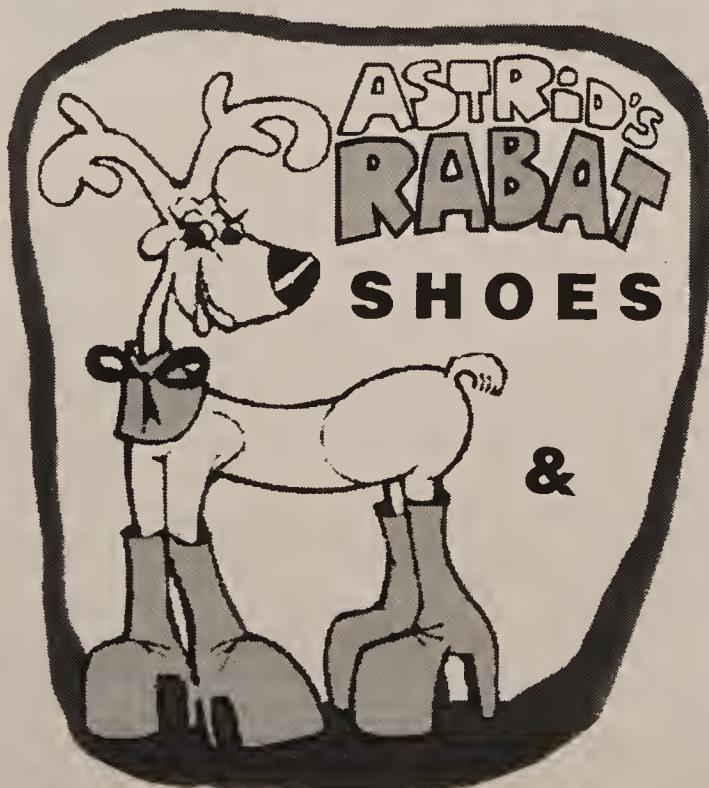
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LETTERS 32¢

Louise Brooks Show Held Over

Editor:

Thanks for the fine article by Fontaine Roberson about the Louise Brooks Society in the September *Voice*. In response to the story, I have received many telephone calls and e-mail inquiries, and many readers have visited the Brooks Web site to find out more about the silent film star. Some have even joined the Louise Brooks Society.

The exhibit, "Louise Brooks: Portraits and Memorabilia," has also proven to be quite popular — so much so that it has been extended through Oct. 12. Mervyn Mark at What's for Dessert (1497 Church St.) reports that many fans — both young and old — have stopped by to see the show. Some have come from as far away as Fresno and Martinez. Many have also signed the show's guestbook and picked up a copy of the brochure that accompanies the exhibit.

Thanks again for putting out a great neighborhood newspaper.

Thomas Gladysz
Founder, Louise Brooks Society
www.pandorasbox.com

B&B Not Hidden Anymore

Editor:

My wife and I want to pass on our thanks for the fine article in your June 1997 issue that featured our Hidden Cottage Bed and Breakfast ["The Inside Story on Four Noe Valley B&Bs," p. 27]. Reporter Pat Rose did a wonderful job in capturing the essence of the Hidden Cottage. The photo taken by Charles Kennard was excellent. We have received many favorable comments.

Keep up the great work! Your paper is an asset to all who work and live here in Noe Valley.

David Cannata
Innkeeper
Hidden Cottage Bed and Breakfast

Local Boy Scouts Attend National Jamboree

Dear Noe Valley friends and neighbors:

I'm writing to let you know that four boys from Noe Valley and Glen Park were part of a contingent of 40 Bay Area Boy Scouts who attended the National Scout Jamboree this past August. The National Jamboree, held every four years, attracted 34,000 scouts from every state and more than 30 countries.

Writers, Please Read

The *Noe Valley Voice* has two places where we'd like to showcase your work. **The Last Page** is reserved for short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. **Let Bylines Be Bylines** is an opinion column dedicated primarily to Noe Valley topics. The pay varies, but will most likely cover a nice dinner for two in the neighborhood.

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words for the Last Page, and 800 for Bylines. The address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to enclose an SASE if you want your material returned. And please include your phone number.

Also, forgive us if it takes a while to get back to you. Often, the editors are trading their favorite manuscripts and weighing the best time to put them in the paper. Hope to see you in print. Write soon.

Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number, so we can contact you if we have questions. Another way to reach us is via our Web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. There you'll find a history of the paper, the Class Ad listings, and select stories from current and past issues. Hope to hear from you soon.

Patrick Anderson, 15, Ben Kantor, 12, Ryan Lionberger, 13, and Vincent Miers, 15, helped construct a "gateway" into their tent-filled camp, located at the Army's Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. The gateway featured a 25-foot-tall replica of the Golden Gate Bridge.

The theme of the 1997 Jamboree was "Character Counts... Be Prepared for the 21st Century." The program focused on the unique skills of Boy Scouting, including physical fitness, conservation, ecology, and universal brotherhood. The boys, from troops 114 and 39, enjoyed the highlights of Philadelphia, historic Williamsburg, and Washington, D.C., before spending nine days at the jamboree. Scouts had an opportunity to practice archery, obstacle course, boating, and canoeing, as well as to learn about conservation and envi-

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LETTERS

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ronmental practices and participate in handicapped awareness trails, arts and science fairs, snorkeling, and scubas.

President Bill Clinton, who arrived in a helicopter, spoke to the scouts and added to their memories of the adventure. An international jamboree will be held in Chile in two years.

Boys, 11 or older, or in the sixth grade, are welcome to join the Boy Scouts. Younger boys can join Cub Scouts. A neighborhood troop (114) meets weekly in Glen Park. For more information about Scouts, please call the San Francisco Bay Area Council at 510-638-3600 or Troop 114, Harvey Anderson, at 282-7621.

Scouting is adventure, excitement, and fun!

Sara Segal
Valley Street

Red Light for Parking Zone

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Bill Maher, director of the Department of Parking and Traffic, for sending me a letter dated Aug. 14, wherein he states that a petition in favor of establishing a Noe Valley Residential Permit Parking Zone will not be processed. In other words, there will be no restricted residential permit parking in Noe Valley!

Imagine the chaos and nuisance that restricted parking would have caused in this 36-square-block area bounded by Alvarado, Dolores, Douglass, and Clipper streets. We the residents can now look forward to our family and friends coming to visit without the worry of getting a ticket or finding another place to park after only two hours. There's already enough stress in day-to-day life. Why should Noe Valleyans have the additional annoyance that would be inflicted by a two-hour permit zone?

I also would like to thank all of you who signed the petition *against* Residential Permit Parking. You made the difference.

Lois Eugenio
Noe Valley native and homeowner

Put the Antennas on Hold

Editor:

I live at the corner of Elizabeth and Sanchez and am very concerned about a proposal made by Pacific Bell to install cellular phone antennas in the Noe Valley Ministry's steeple [*"Pacific Bell Eyes Church Steeple As Antenna Site,"* September 1997 *Voice*]. The Ministry has not yet decided to allow the installation of these antennas, and has stated in the *Voice* that if enough neighbors protested, they wouldn't allow it. I am writing to urge Noe Valley neighbors to protest! Here's why:

1. The Pac Bell antennas would not provide any new service to the neighborhood. Rather, they would duplicate service already offered by other cellular phone companies (Cellular One, for example).

2. Cell phone technology is so new and untested that it is impossible to determine exactly how safe or harmful it is. The antennas on the roof of the Ministry would emit continuous radiation similar to that emitted by TV sets and Sutro Tower, which would penetrate our homes and our bodies at all hours of the day and night. Although the city health department has determined the antennas to be "safe," its ruling is merely an opinion, echoed by Pac Bell and other companies that have a monetary interest in the technology.

If you are interested in finding out more about the links between this type of radiation and cancer—particularly brain cancer as it relates to the use of cell phones — please read *The EMF Book*, available at the Noe Valley Library.

I myself am skeptical of premature claims of safety when they relate to chemicals or radiation. The story sounds too much like earlier reassurances about the safety of DDT, DES, Thalidomide, and nuclear power. I would like to see the results of long-term (20- to 30-year) studies before I agree that cell phone technology presents no health hazards.

3. If the Ministry agrees to allow the antennas, the city health department is already committed to giving Pacific Bell a permit. Unless we, as neighbors, convince the Ministry not to jeopardize the health of our families and children, we will almost surely lose the permit battle at the city level.

There is hope, however! Pastor Huff said in the *Voice* that although the church would really love the money it would make from the deal, "We won't go ahead if our neighbors really don't want us to." It is up to us to say loud and clear, "No thanks!"

Please call Paula Marks at the Ministry, 282-2317. Your effort *really* counts!

Judy Irving
Elizabeth Street

Anti-Technology Translates to Anti-Community

Editor:

I have attended two meetings regarding use of the Noe Valley Ministry as a cell phone relay site, and can only shake my head in wonder at the anti-community actions of those opposing the idea. We should be thankful that the Ministry provides senior services, day care, classes, entertainment, and a host of services one need only look at the bulletin board to appreciate. Improving neighborhood cellular service also serves the community. Best of all, the revenues from the site would underwrite the Ministry's community programs by alleviating its debt.

Comparing these incredibly low-power radio transmissions to nuclear radiation, pesticides, and asbestos, as the alarmists are doing, is disingenuous at best and deceitful at worst. The facts are that cellular phone transmissions are comparable to those of baby monitors and generate no ionizing radiation whatsoever.

Pac Bell even offered to measure the amount of ambient radio in neighbors' homes before and after the installation, because there will be no real difference. But of course a vocal minority of Ministry neighbors, aided by at least one imported Luddite who was flush with pseudo-scientific rhetoric, didn't want any facts to interfere with their anti-technology agenda.

There will be a Pac Bell cell site in Noe Valley. The backup location, a commercial building on 24th Street, has already been chosen. Anti-technologists cannot stop an installation with their vaporous "health" arguments. The question is, should the revenues go to a nonprofit pro-community organization or into a commercial building owner's pocket?

José Segué
Chattanooga Street

Err on the Side of Caution

Editor:

We are parents and users of Pac Bell Mobile Services. We have called them and let them know we oppose the placement of antennas in the steeple of the Noe Valley Ministry.

Though we are not opposed to technology and use it in our daily lives, we feel strongly that we should be cautious when it comes to our children. (Certainly it wouldn't hurt to be a bit more cautious when it comes to all of life, but let me stick to the subject at hand....) As long as we aren't 100 percent certain what, if any, potential risks there are to children, let's put it somewhere else.

Niki Kirz
Via e-mail

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Miss Millie's

◆ RESTAURANT ◆

"Dinners Shine in this Cozy Restaurant With Wonderful Style"

San Francisco Chronicle, 1997

"Sweetest Way to Start Your Day"

Best of the Bay, Bay Guardian, 1996

"Hip Haven for Homemade Breakfasts"

Best of the Bay, SF Focus Magazine 1996

"Best Brunch in Noe Valley"

SF Weekly, 1997

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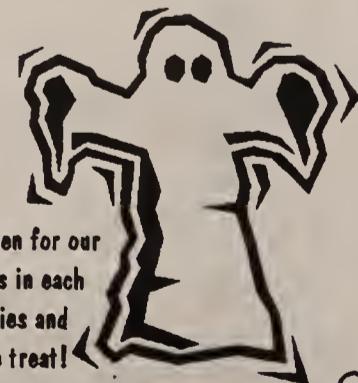
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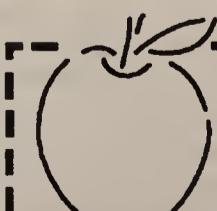


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LETTERS

Continued from Previous Page

Time for Noe Valley to Grow Up

Editor:

Today around 5 p.m. we took the little best friends — two 2-year-old girls — to Noe Courts park for some late-afternoon play. As we approached, instead of seeing our favorite dogs running around, we saw four men smoking dope on the basketball court. They were about 100 feet from the playground.

It made us think about one more way this "park ownership" mess has negatively affected the neighborhood. We are sure that if the usual dogs and owners were allowed access to the park (off leash after 5 p.m., as the use agreement states), these guys would have chosen another spot for their illegal activity. The police were called, but after 30 minutes they still had not shown up. Ironically, there were reports that in the past they had shown up within 10 minutes for dogs off leashes!

We have followed the stories in the *Voice* over the past few months about happenings at Noe Courts and wanted to add our voices to emphasize that while you have framed the issue as dog owners vs. parents, not all parents are against dogs in the park! Many parents of toddlers we know, as well as some of the caregivers we know who use the park daily, believe that the park belongs to all of us. We also support the use agreement, which prohibits dogs in the toddler area and requires owners to pick up after their dogs. (Wouldn't it be great if dog owners in the rest of Noe Valley abided by these rules?)

Our 2-year-olds enjoy petting the dogs, talking to them, and watching them run and jump and have fun at Noe Courts. Sharing the park has been part of our urban experience: they are learning to be cautious with some dogs and to share the city's limited resources.

We go to the park at different times during the day and have never had a problem with dogs or dog owners, nor have we ever witnessed anyone threatening other parents or nannies in the park. The first *Voice* story [July/August 1997] reported that some nannies had felt threatened at the park. The article did not point out that there are parents (usually moms) who use the park as well during the week; many of us have never had problems. In fact, we feel safer at Noe Courts (as compared to Day Street, for example) late in the afternoon because of the presence of the dogs and their owners.

While we were relatively unaware of the latest round of "tempers flaring" at the park, it became obvious just how silly and petty it had become when we witnessed a woman in her car in late June around 6 p.m. using her cell phone to report the number of dogs in the park. Interestingly, she had an empty car seat in the back seat. Where was her child? Was the child not playing in the park because eight dogs had congregated there (instead of the seven allowed by the use agreement), or because it was dinner time?

We certainly do not want to dismiss the potential for problems between toddlers and dogs in the play area, nor the seriousness of dog droppings that are left for others' feet (or strollers) to pick up.

But come on, we're a neighborhood. Let's grow up and deal with one another as sensible adults.

Two Noe Valley Moms
Cesar Chavez Street
Elizabeth Street
(names withheld by request)

Throw the Dogs a Bone

Editor:

Thank you for your excellent article about dog use at Noe Courts ["Dogs March Against Leash Law at Noe Courts Park," September 1997]. As the owner of a home within a block of the park, I have watched this issue carefully.

Over the years, I have seen dog owners pick up trash, paint over graffiti, clean up after errant dog owners, play with kids, and make valuable contributions to the park. I have also recently watched them try to reach out to the parents, only to be rebuffed.

As a community, we must all work together to share common resources and respect each other's needs. It is ludicrous to exclude dog owners from their community benefits because they choose to have dogs instead of, or in addition to, kids. Living in a great neighborhood like ours requires compassion, sharing, and compromise. Everyone in our community deserves access to the park — that's what Noe Valley is about.

The most recent proposal to limit dog use to before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. is very reasonable. The best hours of the day are reserved for parents and children, while the off-hours, a time when the park is virtually unused, are for canines. I cannot understand why this would be unacceptable. Do the parents believe the park is their own personal back yard?

I wish the small group of parents pushing for a ban on dogs would consider the views of others. Personally, I want my kids to grow up respecting other people's rights and beliefs. I want my children to understand that adults can work together to find mutually acceptable solutions. Believe me, I am far more worried about my children following the example set by these parents, than I am about any chance encounter with a dog.

C. Hunt
Jersey Street

Brush Up on Your Birds

Editor:

In response to Jean La Pez's question in your September issue about the parrots roosting in the palm trees on Dolores, I'd like to recommend some books on birds.

There's a very good paperback called *American Wildlife and Plants: A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits*, by A. C. Martin, H. S. Zim, and A. L. Nelson. It covers the use of trees, shrubs, weeds, and herbs by birds and mammals of the United States, and is published by Dover Publications, 31 E. Second St., Mineola, NY 11501. Cost is \$10.95, plus \$4 for postage and handling. You also may be able to get it at Stacey's Professional Bookstore on Market Street, or by logging on to Stacey's Web site at www.staceys.com.

For a free catalog of conservation biology books, write to Patricia Ledlie Bookseller, One Bean Road, P.O. Box 90, Buckfield, ME 04220. The catalog is issued three or four times a year, and it is excellent! You can also visit her Web site, www.booknotes.com/ledlie/ or e-mail Patricia Ledlie at ledlie@maine.com.

Also on-line is a three-year-old magazine called *Bird Breeder*. The site is www.birdbreeder.com. *Watchbird* is published six times a year by the American Federation of Aviculture, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079.

By the way, aviculture is the rearing and care of birds and especially of wild birds in captivity.

Bet Dy
Dolores Street

Cheerio!

Editor:

Just some positive feedback from an ex-resident of Noe Valley (Randall Street) who likes reading the *Noe Valley Voice* on the Net. Keep up the good work!

Les Smithson
Open Network Solutions Ltd.
London, England

NOE / VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



November 4, 1997, Election Endorsements

PROPS A/B
Water Bonds

YES

One bond for \$157 million in seismic upgrades and another for \$147 million in water quality improvements. Upgrades in our water system have been needed for years, but these bonds are likely to result in increased water rates. While NVDC members supported these bonds, we would also like to see better management at the Water Department so that we don't have to resort to bond financing to solve problems.

PROP C
Retirement Benefits

YES

Prop. C allows a certain class of City employees, mostly police and firefighters, to buy back into Tier 2 pension benefits, thereby strengthening their retirement plans. This plan benefits only 165 employees.

PROP D
Board Lease Approval

YES

This Charter amendment will streamline Board meetings by bringing the approval standards for property leases in line with other types of City contracts.

PROP E
Youth Commission

YES

We supported the Youth Commission when it was formed but its efforts have been limited by restrictions on its power. This measure will give commissioners the authority to make grants to youth groups and allow the commission to meet more regularly.

PROP F
Mt. Davidson Cross

YES

Prop. F would allow the City to sell the cross on Mount Davidson to an Armenian-American group. This sale will preserve a piece of San Francisco history, preserve valuable open space and satisfy City concerns about separation of church and state.

PROP G
Political Consultants

YES

Prop. G subjects campaign consultants to the same reporting requirements as lobbyists. For the first time, the public will have access to the names of consultants and their clients, enabling us all to see how City politics work. **We strongly support Proposition G.**

PROP H
Central Freeway

NO

Prop. H would require CalTrans to retrofit the existing Central Freeway. This overly specific measure ties the City's hands and eliminates all other options for solving the freeway problem, such as tearing down or building a new structure. **This is not a way to solve the problem. Vote No!**

The Noe Valley Democratic Club also endorses the following candidates for office:

Louise Renne for City Attorney

Susan Leal for City Treasurer

Strong Resistance to Cell Phone Site

Continued from Page 1

This sort of statement is disturbing to parents such as Lisa Jaicks, who lives on the corner of Elizabeth and Sanchez streets with her partner and preschool son. In January the youngster will likely attend the Noe Valley Nursery School housed at the Ministry.

"I feel very strongly that I don't want our son to be experimented upon," said Jaicks. "Our home is close to the church, he will be there mornings for school, and we go to Shabbat services there every other Friday. I don't want to take any chances that this could be harmful."

Nursery school parents in mid-September voted 12 to 5 against installation of the transmitter at the church.

Neighbors were also concerned about an article published in May in the journal *Radiation Research*. The story was about a group of Australian scientists who had found that cancer-prone mice exposed to radiation similar to that from cellular telephones developed twice as many cancers as mice in a control group of unexposed cancer-prone mice.

Another study, this one done by Drs. Henry Lai and Narendra Singh at the University of Washington, Seattle, found DNA breaks in the brain cells of animals exposed to emissions similar to those from cellular phones. DNA breaks can lead to cancer and other health problems if the body is not able to repair them, according to the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel*.

Dr. Jerold Bushberg, director of health physics at U.C. Davis Medical Center, said he was familiar with the Australian studies and found them flawed. Bushberg

is under contract with Pac Bell to help promote antenna installation.

"First of all, these mice were genetically altered to be much more susceptible to cancer than normal mice. Secondly, they were submitted to radiation hundreds of thousands of times the level of what the industry considers acceptable," said Bushberg.

Many things that are harmful to mice are not necessarily harmful to humans, he added. In this study, the scientists isolated the Pim-1 gene, which is not a gene found in human beings. "I have no idea why they used the Pim-1 gene in this study and not the P-53 gene, which is found in both mice and humans," said Bushberg.

He also noted that even the high radiation reportedly used in the study was not a true indicator of the level of radiation the mice were receiving because they were kept in a room with an aluminum-like covering that caused spectral reflection, said Bushberg. Also, the radiation was measured by a human with a handheld probe. Humans absorb a considerable amount of radiation, he said.

"The point is," he continued, "you can find individual scientists with some expertise holding a wide variety of opinions on any issue. But it takes groups of scientists with real expertise in an area to set safety standards."

As for Lotz of Cincinnati, Bushberg said that he doubted Lotz was much of an expert. "I bet he has never done work with transgenetically altered mice."

But to many neighbors of the Ministry, the fact that a study has found that transmissions from cellular telephones can cause biological alterations of any kind is cause for concern.

"There appears to be a clear consensus among knowledgeable persons that the safety of cellular telephone emissions remains an open question, one which requires more research immediately," wrote 23rd Street resident Michael Rugen in a

letter to Reverend Huff on behalf of the neighbors. "Until that research is completed, we believe it is inappropriate for any of us to subject our neighbors against their will to high dosages of cellular [phone] emissions," wrote Rugen.

Judy Irving of 394 Elizabeth St. thinks people should be wary of scientists who try to convince them that this form of ra-

diation is safe, despite some studies that indicate otherwise. "People have a healthy skepticism after DDT, Thalidomide, and all the other things scientists told us were safe but turned out to be deadly," said Irving.

Bushberg defended his profession. "Of the hundreds of thousands of recommendations made by scientists on health and safety issues, the vast majority have withstood the test of time. The vast majority have served society well," he said.

"But at the end of the day, everyone has to make their own decision. They have to listen to whomever they trust," said Bushberg.

Pastor Huff said she and the Ministry's six elders would evaluate information from both sides and reach a decision at their Sept. 30 meeting. If they decide to accept Pac Bell's proposal, the issue will go to the City Planning Commission for hearings. □

No Antennas in Noe Valley

Since cell phone antennas are such hot potatoes these days, the *Voice* tried to dig up the exact number and location of sites in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods.

According to a list compiled last February, there are 119 cell phone antenna sites within the city limits of San Francisco, but none in Noe Valley proper. "We haven't been having a lot of success getting these into Noe Valley," said Kelly Pepper of the Planning Department.

After poring over the list—which is organized alphabetically, not geographically—the *Voice* determined that the closest sites to Noe Valley were a Cellular One site at 2601 Mission St. (near 22nd); a Sprint site at 3555 Cesar Chavez (near South Van Ness); and a Pac Bel site at 1045 Capp St. (near 25th Street).

Pac Bel also has an antenna in the Castro at 2324 Market St. (near Noe). The communications company Nextel has one above 16th and Mission at 3000 16th St.

Residents should note that Sprint withdrew its plan to put a transmitter atop the Hoffman Fire Station, following a public outcry last spring.

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Last Days of Panos'

Continued from Page 1

anarases expanded into the space formerly occupied by Mike's Barber Shop (now on Church Street). Today Panos' has an airy but warm Mediterranean feel, with an open kitchen, white tablecloths, and dramatic vases of flowers.

The menu has evolved as well. A couple of years ago, Vi took off the tablecloths and introduced a trendier, seasonal menu, but the customers preferred the elegant atmosphere and the Greek-inspired and traditional Greek dishes that had become Panos' trademark. "[Panos'] has reinvented itself in a variety of ways over the years," says Vi, "but it's always been Greek."

And it has always been popular. Says Vi, "My customers have been wonderful, very loyal, very appreciative. They've been necessary in maintaining my energy."

To bid Panos' farewell, Vi said the restaurant would probably hold a private dinner and an invitation-only party for past and present employees. But she would also like to publish some of her much-requested, previously secret recipes. "It's a nice way for us to thank everyone for their patronage," she says. Her recipe for Athenian Pasta is printed here (*see sidebar*).

Soon after Panos' closes, Pasta Pomodoro will take over the space. This Italian restaurant is part of a small privately-owned chain, and the Noe Valley location will be its seventh in San Francisco (other locations include 2027 Chestnut St., 2304 Market St., and 655 Union St.). Pasta Pomodoro also has a site in Rockridge.

Vi Gianaras is happy about Pasta Pomodoro's arrival. "They have a great product at an incredible price," she says. "I feel very comfortable that [Pasta Pomodoro] can do a great job. They have a really talented owner/chef."

Not everyone is excited about a chain restaurant in Noe Valley, however. Friends of Noe Valley board member and newsletter author Harry Stern comments, "Pasta Pomodoro may have the world's greatest pasta, but I'd like to see the neighborhood have locally owned neighborhood businesses."

Stern recognizes that Pasta Pomodoro is different from a Burger King or similar "big chain," but he fears that the arrival of each chain business erodes the individual character of the neighborhood a little bit more. He adds, "You've got to make distinctions about chains, and be selective in how you view them." He notes that banks, for example, are obviously chains, but the neighborhood needs them. Chain shops and restaurants, he says, are a somewhat different story.

Noe Valley does have an 18-month moratorium on new food establishments on 24th Street, but the ban does not affect Pasta Pomodoro because it is replacing a restaurant. There is no ban on chain stores or chain restaurants in Noe Valley, and



John and Vi Gianaras have decided to shut down Panos' Restaurant, their 20-year labor of love, to concentrate on family and personal careers.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

land use attorney (and Noe Valley resident) Claire Pilcher says that such a broad ban would be impossible. Pilcher also notes that there is no legal requirement for any kind of notice in a commercial situation. "The neighborhood is kept in the dark until it's a *fait accompli*," she says.

"I'm disappointed for two reasons," Pilcher adds, "one, Panos' is leaving, and two, we're not getting an individual, unique restaurant in its place." She continues, "I'm concerned about the new restaurant's impact on other restaurants, such as Little Italy." Little Italy is one of several Italian restaurants in Noe Valley. "It's too bad for 24th Street—we want to main-

tain some variety," Pilcher concludes.

Burton Heiss, district manager for Pasta Pomodoro, says he understands the antichain feeling. But he responds, "We're not cookie-cutter. All our stores are unique. We started here in San Francisco, and our operations are here. We tend to be a good fit in the neighborhoods. We haven't been perceived as a chain once we've opened."

The Pasta Pomodoro restaurants are full-service, casual in style, and offer a mostly pasta menu with some other daily specials such as a grilled fish, for dine-in or take-out. "It's exceptional quality

pasta, and it's an energetic and fun atmosphere," says Heiss. Pasta Pomodoro plans to open its Noe Valley restaurant on Nov. 1, after minor renovations.

John and Vi Gianaras, who've lived and worked in Noe Valley for many years, say they plan to keep their ties to the neighborhood, but this month may be your last chance to order the grilled lamb or gyro platter at Panos'.

Panos' does not take reservations. However, the restaurant is open for lunch (Mon.–Fri., 11:30–2:30), brunch (Sat. and Sun., 10–2:30), and dinner (Mon.–Sat., 5:30–10; Sun., 5–9:30). □

Athenian Pasta

*Courtesy of
Panos' Restaurant Chef
Vi Gianaras*

Ingredients

4 cups penne pasta, cooked al dente
(2 cups dry pasta)
3 slices (1/2-inch thick) eggplant, sliced
into sticks
1 roasted red pepper, julienned
1/2 cup Kalamata olives, pitted
1 fresh tomato, diced
2 teaspoons garlic, finely chopped
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup white wine
Juice from 1/2 lemon
2 dashes Tabasco
1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat olive oil in a sauté pan until hot. Add eggplant sticks. Brown eggplant on all sides. Add garlic and sauté lightly. Add all other ingredients except cheese. Sauté slightly. Season sauté liberally, and toss with cooked pasta. Transfer to serving dishes and garnish with feta cheese. Serves 2.

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The Noe Valley Voice

POLICE BEAT

4 Muggings and a Store Robbery

By Officer Lois Perillo

There were five reported robberies within my Noe Valley beat during August, two more than in July.

In the first robbery, which happened on Aug. 4 just before 1 p.m., a 33-year-old woman from Italy was walking west on the 800 block of Elizabeth Street when a 30-year-old man drove up in an older silver American car, exited, and grabbed her bag. As they struggled, the woman screamed, drawing the attention of a witness who notified police. Other witnesses also came to the woman's aid, but not before the suspect had pushed the woman backwards, causing her to injure her knee. The suspect returned to his car and escaped west on Elizabeth Street.

An 83-year-old Petaluma woman and her two daughters were robbed and assaulted as they crossed Worth Street near 21st Street on Aug. 10 at about 7:40 p.m. The robber was a man in his late 20s, who drove up in a cream-colored Mercury Cougar. He exited the car and grabbed the elder woman's purse from behind. As the woman resisted, the suspect pulled her to the ground. The daughters tried to intervene, but were both thrown to the ground also. One daughter was punched in the face. The suspect fled with two of the women's purses. Meanwhile, the women's yells produced many calls to police and reports from at least five witnesses.

Although a description of the suspect was broadcast citywide and the area was searched, the assailant was not found.

In another incident, on Aug. 12 at 10 p.m., a 37-year-old man walked past a group of six men in their 20s standing at the corner of 23rd and Noe streets. One of the young men yelled something in Spanish, but the older man failed to understand since his languages were English and Cantonese. As the older man attempted to pass the group, one of the younger men threatened him with a knife and said, "Money." Then an accomplice punched him, causing him to fall to the ground. Several others rummaged through the man's pockets until they found and removed his wallet. They fled with the stolen property in an unknown direction.

In the last of the street robberies, a 27-year-old woman and a 33-year-old man were walking on 26th Street near Dolores when they were approached by a man who asked them the time. The couple reported feeling "uncomfortable" and continued walking, but were stopped when two other men joined the first. The couple did not resist as the three men rifled through their pockets, stealing their wallets, and then punched the targeted man before fleeing in an unknown direction. Through the investigative efforts of robbery inspector Richard Dalton, a suspect was arrested and charged in this case. More details to follow next month.

During the only commercial robbery in August, a 20-year-old man entered a store at 24th and Guerrero on Aug. 28 at 12:35 p.m. He brandished a gun and stole a small amount of money from a store worker and a customer. No one was injured in the incident, and an investigation is ongoing.

Kudos to all the people who came away from these dangerous situations by using a range of responses, including their voices. Yelling proved a valuable tool, by drawing witnesses and police to

the scene. And thanks to those of you who helped by paying attention, calling the police, offering aid, and being witnesses.

A reminder: Each incident had its own distinct features, and each person had his/her own strengths and weaknesses in reacting to them. By creating different scenarios in your mind's eye, you may better prepare yourself for a confrontation. No, I do not advocate dwelling on the negative. I do advocate options, vigilance, and ongoing care for and about each other.

Burgs Are Down

There were six reported burglaries within my area, down from seven in July. Five occurred during the last two weeks of August, and included a house under construction, an apartment garage, and four houses or flats.

Shoplifters Nabbed

Two shoplifting suspects were caught by store workers—one at Just for Fun on Aug. 2, and another at Bell Market on Aug. 31. Police responded and took custody of both suspects.

In the earlier case, the 30-year-old man's charge was dismissed by the district attorney. In the second case, the 21-year-old man, an Oakland resident, was charged with a felony due to prior theft convictions. When I checked his San Francisco court record, I found that he had five additional cases pending, including three thefts with priors, one burglary, and one narcotics case.

The Palo Alto Man May Try a Scam

A resident of the 100 block of Chattanooga asked that I alert you to a "nicely dressed" white male in his 60s with gray hair who tried to elicit money from her by weaving a tale involving Palo Alto, the Peace Corps, and 24-Hour Nautilus. She did not give him a penny, and she hopes you don't either.

As the rainy season approaches, some of your neighbors and relatives, especially elders, may be prey to con artists claiming to be roofers or contractors who will "prepare your house for the bad weather," usually by spraying a (phony) sealant or allegedly replacing shingles. Please remind one another never to contract with a door-to-door rep without getting references, checking licenses, and obtaining a second estimate from a company you pick.

While we are on the subject of scams and cons, always check the uniform, vehicle, and identification of any person claiming to be a utility worker seeking access to your home. If in doubt, do not allow them entry.

Finally, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is. If someone approaches you with a "bundle of found money," take a mental picture of them, walk away immediately, and call the cops. They are about to capture you in one of the oldest cons around: the Switch.

The money bundle is a roll of cut-up newspaper or play money wrapped in some legit currency. If you play their game and give them the required "good faith" money, you will be rewarded with a roll of worthless paper for your trouble. Run, do not walk, away from these con men and women!

Until next time, be safe and I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat by foot and by bicycle. Her turf extends from 21st Street south to Cesar Chavez, and from Valencia west to Grand View. If you would like to report a problem, call 558-5404. (For emergencies, call 911.) Or to file a police report, stop by Mission Police Station at 630 Valencia St. Noe Valley residents who live south of Cesar Chavez should contact the Ingleside Police Station at 553-1603.

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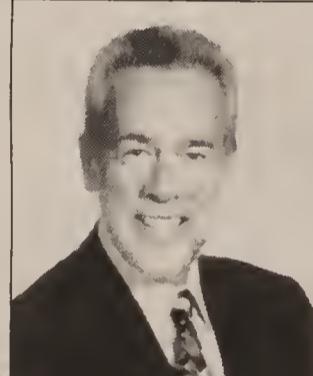
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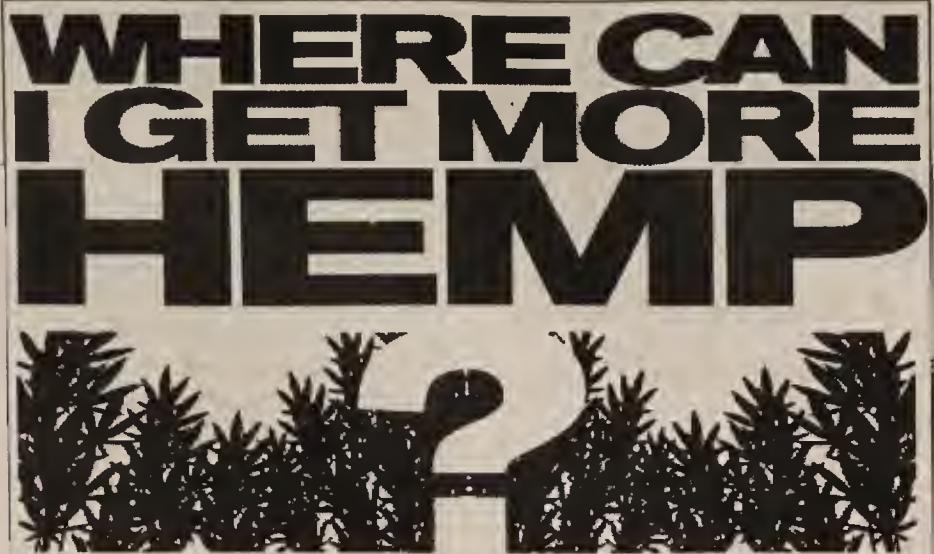
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Your Perfume Might Take
Someone's Breath Away

Think Twice About Wearing a Fragrance to Work

By Maire Farrington

Strolling and shopping in Noe Valley are a breeze for most people. But for Grand View Avenue resident Amy Marsh — and for those who share multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), often called environmental illness — running errands on 24th Street can pose a real challenge.

"My daughter would love to go into Just for Fun every time we walk down 24th Street, but I can't handle it—they've got so many scented candles," laments Marsh. Dashing into Real Food Company to buy her unscented shampoo also can be risky, when it means standing in line behind people wearing perfume.

Even the playground at Noe Courts is off limits. "It's a real haven for scented babysitters," she says. "There are lots of times when I'll go walking down there with Paul [her 1-year-old son], but I won't stop because of the fragrance."

Marsh makes special arrangements to have her hair cut early on a Sunday morning, before clients arrive for chemical treatments such as perms and haircoloring.

For over eight years, she's also worked out of her home. She knows that in most office settings, a few whiffs of Obsession



Grand View Avenue resident Amy Marsh tries to keep her home as chemical-free as possible, so that daughter Cecily and Cecily's baby brother Paul won't develop the kind of sensitivities she has.
Photo by Charles Kennard

worn by a co-worker are all it would take to trigger symptoms of "dizziness, disorientation, being unable to breathe," says Marsh. "It can even become an asthma attack if it's strong enough."

This summer, after completing a non-profit management program at the University of San Francisco, Marsh, 42, founded Working Fragrance Free (WFF), an organization whose goal is "to promote

fragrance-free workplaces as healthy, desirable options for everybody, including those with chemical sensitivities."

Multiple chemical sensitivity is defined as the inability to tolerate "common" chemicals and fragrances without becoming ill. Symptoms range from severe headaches, nausea, and dizziness to extreme fatigue and neurological damage. For many with MCS, trying to work in an environment

free of chemicals is a losing battle, Marsh says. Far too often, the employer's attitude is, "Put up or shut up."

Her group Working Fragrance Free plans to confront the situation head on. "We're going to be working with both employers and employees to develop programs, materials, and events, and try to

Continued on Next Page

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PORSCHE

Campaign for a Fragrance-Free Workplace

Continued from Previous Page

get the point across that there are many otherwise able-bodied people who just cannot work or go where they'd choose to go, because of fragrances."

Marsh points out that most colognes and aftershaves are "optional, cosmetic things that you can use or not use," and they can still be worn in private settings.

Of course, wearing perfume is out of the question for Marsh. She first began experiencing adverse reactions to chemicals in 1989.

"Perfume started to give me terrible headaches, and that was the first inkling," Marsh recalls. At the same time, she was working in the furniture refinishing business she co-founded with her husband, Steve, 44. "A nice toxic business," she jokes. Aware of the hazards of oil-based paints and solvents, Marsh wore a respirator (protective face mask) most of the time, and stopped working on site when she became pregnant with her daughter Cecily, now 7½.

But her chemical sensitivities continued. "There was a period of time when I was just sick all the time and I didn't know why. Depression was part of it too," Marsh says. Unable to return to the hands-on aspect of the refinishing business, she began working from home in an administrative capacity. Homeopathic treatment eventually alleviated the depression and helped Marsh regain some of her former stamina, but she must still keep her life as chemical-free as possible.

Marsh's interest in forming Working

Fragrance Free was sparked, she says, by "knowing that I can't go out and get a job any place I want to. But the thing that pushed me over the edge was the fact that my mother is now out on disability because she had to leave a job, simply because of fragrance."

Her mother, Chloe Milne, 61, had been working for 4½ months at a business collection agency when she became ill from breathing in the fragrances worn by co-workers. Despite a letter from her doctor and a formal request that cited the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), "she couldn't get them to accommodate her or work with her," Marsh says. "Finally she just had to leave."

"I think that a lot of people have simply left their jobs, rather than fight for a safe environment," Marsh asserts. One woman, she notes, went so far as to pursue a lawsuit, citing the ADA, but dropped it when her lawyer informed her that she would be responsible for the employer's legal fees if she lost the case. Those who stick it out, she says, often end up "having to carry an oxygen tank and face mask to the office each day."

Marsh admits it can be difficult for the average person to understand why some people are so much more dramatically affected by fragrances and common chemicals than others.

"Some people have a history of asthma or allergies—they've already got a weakened immune system," Marsh explains. "Other people are more resilient. Maybe these people just haven't been exposed as much. Maybe these people are going to be affected five years from now, but they're not right now."

Marsh points out that MCS seems to run in families. "It's actually not just my mother and me. I have at least one sister who's sensitive, and I think my other sister has got to be, but she hasn't admitted

MOMMY'S MASK

When I first saw my mommy's mask,
I thought it was a Halloween scare.
But then she wore it to the store,
I didn't think she'd dare!

The people stared, then turned away,
They didn't understand.
My face turned red, I hid my head,
I pushed away her hand.

She knelt beside me in the store,
She still looked weird to me.
I couldn't see her mouth or nose,
But her eyes were watery.

"I'm still your mom," my mother said,
"But I've been awful sick.
I need protection to get well.
This mask will do the trick."

"What makes you sick?" I asked her then.
We started down the aisle.
When I reached up to take her hand,
I saw her eyes had smiles.

"Oh, perfumes, car fumes, pesticides,
And stuff that scrubs the sink,
My old paint set, aftershave,
And sunscreen too, I think."

"See, I'm an early warning sign,
To all those people there.
They see me and they know they must
Clean the water, earth, and air."

At home my mom took off her mask,
And put it on a shelf.
I wanted to be brave like her,
So I tried it on myself!

—Amy Marsh
© 1997

with them. And I have an uncle who has started to have problems with perfumes.

"I don't know the relationship between inherited tendencies toward allergies and asthma, but it would seem to me that there is that link, because they're always asking about this in family histories when you go to see a doctor. It just stands to reason that if you have a predisposition to allergies or asthma, you could go over whatever that thin line is, into the realm of the chemically sensitive."

Just what are people with MCS reacting to when they get sick from fragrances? "I would say you've basically got a nice container of paint without the pigment, and you're slapping it on your skin," Marsh says, noting that some of the chemicals used in perfumes are the same as those used in oil-based paints and solvents.

"And if it were a can of paint, you'd be getting information about how toxic it is and how to treat it very, very carefully. But the mixing of fragrance is classified as an art, so the fragrance industry is not regulated by the FDA. They're free to put anything they want—and they do—into this stuff, and you'd better believe that it's absorbed through your skin, as well as through your respiratory system."

Marsh finds that fear and misunderstanding of chemical sensitivities extend beyond the workplace. "Some people just kind of back away and don't want to talk to me anymore once the issue comes up," she says. "If I've worn a respirator, of course I look really different and weird, and people don't know why that is. So you tend to be treated like a modern-day leper. And people tend to think you're nutty or neurotic, or you have nothing better to do with your life. They just kind of hope you'll go away and quit talking about it."

Fortunately for those who are struggling for the right to work in a fragrance-free environment, Amy Marsh has only just begun to talk about it.

Information on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

If you would like to find out more about dealing with chemical sensitivities in the workplace, you can write to Noe Valley resident Amy Marsh at the address below. Marsh suggests that you may also want to check out a couple of other related organizations, as well as a book that addresses how to handle your child's allergies and sensitivities at school and at home.

Working Fragrance Free
P.O. Box 460461
San Francisco, CA 94146-0461
This group, founded by Amy Marsh, helps the fragrance-sensitive worker achieve effective accommodation through workplace education, information, events, and a newsletter.

Environmental Health Network
P.O. Box 1155
Larkspur, CA 94977
(415) 541-5075
Provides information/referrals, newsletter, peer support, and monthly meetings.

Independent Living Resource Center
70 10th St. #409
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 863-0851
Offers legal advocacy for employment, housing, and access to public service for the disabled. Also provides information, referrals, and a newsletter.

Natural Resources
1307 Castro St.
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 550-2611
Carries the book *Is This Your Child's World? How You Can Fix the Schools and Homes That Are Making Your Child Sick*, by Doris J. Rapp, M.D. (Bantam, 1996, \$24.95).

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The Lost World of Neo-Sanchez

By Richard Lee Merritt

It was in the summer of 1955 that we first saw "Neo-Sanchez." We were very seriously looking for a house to buy. But since we were ignorant outlanders—I was from Montana, my wife Gertrude from New York—it took fortune and accident to lead us to Noe Valley.

Our first year and a half in San Francisco, we lived in an apartment on 17th Street near Stanyan. During that time, we must have looked at 30 or 40 houses, even putting down earnest money in a couple of cases—one on Stanyan and one on States Street. But we always got cold feet and extricated ourselves at the last minute.

Though we didn't realize it, this was the golden age for house hunters, especially those interested in decaying Victorians. Generally, Victorians were held in low esteem, and builders were replacing them wholesale with those flat-fronted, functional apartment houses that still mar the symmetry of many of our older blocks. Since the 1920s people had been razing them or hiding their gingerbread under asbestos shingles or stucco. In the Western Addition, San Francisco was engaged in a Saturnalia of self-destruction called urban renewal, in which over 100 blocks of blighted, slum-bound Victorians met their end.

My wife and I were poor, each with a tiny salary. Our apartment cost \$65 a month. But I was young (32), willing, and able to do many of the necessary things to improve an old house. I could garden, carpenter, paint, putty, and learn. If we were to improve our station in life, we had to buy a house and harness my rampant energies!

We decided we must have four basic things: a garden, a garage, a fireplace, and a view. We didn't have a set location, though. The only neighborhood we knew was our pre-hippie Haight-Ashbury. And if anyone had told us the real estate we were surveying was in Noe Valley, we would have asked,



The One That Got Away: Richard Lee Merritt's \$7,000 "dream" house in the 1950s still sits third from the left in the row of quadruplets on Sanchez Hill. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

"Where's the valley?"

Among the many houses we looked at was one on Sanchez Street near Jersey—a Stick-style, square-bay Victorian. The price was fair (within our \$7,000 to \$12,000 range), but there was no view, and the house needed much more than just paint.

When we did comparisons during our house hunting, we would refer to houses by their street names—thus, the Hoffman, the Woodland, the Ashbury, and the Sanchez house. But one day a realtor took us back over to Sanchez Street, this time near the top of the very steep hill between Hill and 22nd streets.

This second Sanchez house seized our attention, most particularly because the asking price was a rock-bottom \$7,000, the lowest we had found in our search. But confusion arose, since now there were two Sanchez houses!

For the sake of clarity I dredged up a couple of dependable Greek prefixes. I told my wife that the first Sanchez house would be known as *Paleo-Sanchez* (old), and the second as *Neo-Sanchez* (new).

Neo-Sanchez was one of a row of quadruplets built on a high ridge on the east side of the street. From the rear windows, it had a spectacular panoramic view of downtown, the Bay Bridge, and Mount Diablo. Morning sun poured in those same windows. Moreover, the dormer windows on the front captured the last rays of the evening sun when Twin Peaks cast a long shadow over houses further west.

The quadruplets, which might vaguely be described as craftsman bungalows San Francisco-style, were definitely post-Victorian, probably early Model-T (c. 1910). Each was built over

a street-level garage and had a roof sloping toward the street. Neo-Sanchez also had a solid concrete basement, probably built on bedrock, since there were some impressive natural rock outcroppings a hundred feet down the hill.

I scarcely recall the garden. But I think it was precipitous, falling away toward Church Street. Nevertheless, it got lots of sun and might have been developed with a series of terraces and retaining walls such as farmers built on mountainsides in China and Provence. A Sherpa would have helped there.

Inside, Neo-Sanchez had a fireplace and well-proportioned rooms, but the greatest feature was its superb, ridge-top location. With our books, Oriental rugs, and distinctive Salvation Army furniture—not to mention our impeccable taste and ingenuity—how could we fail to make this an enviable retreat?

We looked at the house twice, then asked a friend whom we considered an expert in such matters to evaluate the structure. Because the ceiling over the stairway was badly stained from a leaky roof and the wallpaper hung in shreds, our friend pronounced it "a disaster."

However, the lady next door at 861 Sanchez, who happened to be the owner of Neo-Sanchez, invited us over to see her house. A twin of Neo-Sanchez, it was beautifully painted and in good condition. "This is what it will be like after you've done the repairs!"

We weighed the pros and cons, and at last decided to try to buy Neo-Sanchez despite our friend's admonitions. Then financial difficulties arose. Although we had \$2,000 for the down payment, the bank balked at lending first mortgage money until the roof was replaced. We

could not afford both the down payment and the roof costs. This problem could have been overcome, but we were not sophisticated enough—nor our realtor enterprising enough—to know how to procure the extra few hundred dollars that a new roof would have cost in those good old days. The bank turned us down.

So we didn't buy Neo-Sanchez after all. Instead, the following autumn we found and bought our manse on 23rd Street between Hoffman and Grand View. Our new old house was a true 1897 Victorian with no garage. But it had a garden, a fireplace, and a poor man's view of the South Bay. It cost \$8,800, but the roof didn't leak, and the former owner obligingly gave us a second mortgage.

Today, after 42 years, I love it dearly (my wife died in 1971). I've grown fond of its redwood tree and roses; its crown cornices and medallions; its wealth of stained glass; its roomy nooks and crannies. I'm not above talking to it, caressing its redwood wainscots, or congratulating it on its hundredth birthday.

However, I still muse about the hands of fate, and how some obscure bank official decreed that we were not to inhabit Neo-Sanchez.

If you live on Sanchez Hill and happen to see an elderly man shuffling along, staring intently at the details in a pageant of charming houses, please know that he's not planning a break-in. He's just an old friend, come down eight blocks o'er hill and dale to visit the "road not taken." □

Richard Lee Merritt, although retired from his 23-year career as a librarian for the San Francisco Examiner, has not retired his love of the written word. More than 3,000 books fill the nooks and crannies of his three-story Victorian, two of which are novels he has written himself.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on neighborhood people, places, and pastimes. Mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 800 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. Thank you.

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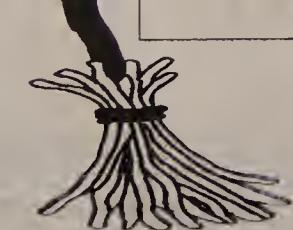
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Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

Odyssey at the Rainbow Grocery

By Cynthia Schrager

It's mid-morning on a Monday, and the cramped parking lot at the new South-of-Market Rainbow Grocery is packed. I pull up behind a line of five or so cars, spilling out onto Duboce Avenue underneath the iron girders in the shadow of the Central Freeway.

We sit. A pickup truck is parked just inside the entrance, waiting for someone to vacate a spot. Doesn't he see the empty stall in the next aisle of the U-shaped lot, right next to the exit driveway? Or maybe it's one of the spaces reserved for compact cars, like mine. Either way, none of the rest of us can squeeze around him in this narrow lane.

I take my foot off the brake and put the car in park. We wait. I look at the empty parking space with its two neatly painted white lines, like an equal sign. The line of cars grows.

Someone could simply drive in the exit and, in a moment, find herself striding purposefully toward the produce aisle, checking items efficiently off her shopping list. The nose of my car is just a few yards from the unused stall. I hesitate, checking my side-view mirror.

Suddenly, I am making a break for the spot. My car swings easily around the rear bumper of the car ahead of me. I sail in the exit and come to a stop between the two white lines. Just as quickly, another car pulls up alongside me—on the sidewalk. We are both outlaw individualists, living the code of the Wild West in the gold rush town of San Francisco.

Above me, the words RAINBOW GROCERY AND GENERAL STORE are painted like a giant banner headline across the side of the brick building. Underneath, in slightly smaller letters, it reads: *A Worker-Owned Cooperative*.

I get out of my car guiltily. Between me and the store entrance, the other drivers are still sitting behind their steering wheels staring at the back of the pickup truck. I hang back, longing suddenly for the anonymity of the Safeway parking lot, where, I have the fleeting thought, it's every man for himself—the good old American way.

Two elderly ladies, speaking in thickly accented English, are suddenly asking me for directions. Do I know where they can get the No. 49 bus? I don't. But I linger helpfully, happy to find myself in my more accustomed role of good citizen, good neighbor, good girl. See? I am saying to the other drivers. This is the real me. I don't know who careened into that parking space. Not me!

Slinking past the line of cars, I duck into the glass doors, which open automatically, no questions asked. I walk up and down the aisles, furtively heaping my cart with bulk grains, organic vegetables, and recycled paper products. I pull the zipper of my REI anorak jacket as high as it will go, burying my chin under the collar. I consider putting on my sunglasses.

Out of the corner of my eye, I watch the woman hefting cabbages, the tall man handing down a product from the top shelf, the couple arguing over which brand of salsa they prefer. I am waiting

to be confronted.

In the checkout line, I keep my eyes lowered, avoiding the usual friendly greeting from the cashier. I'm sure the security guards have already issued my description.

Back outside, as I push the cart toward my car, I spot the piece of white paper—the one I knew would be there even before I saw it—fluttering in the breeze, secured under my windshield wiper.

The handwriting is round and bold. The note, indignant: *I can't believe how rude some people can be cutting in line in front of patiently waiting people. Live with your own selfishness.*

I scan the parking lot, as if the note-writer might still be on hand, waiting for me. I want to defend myself. But I'm not selfish, I would say. You've got me all wrong. I'm a patient waiter, too. Really, I am.

No one nearby seems remotely interested in me. I stuff the note in my pocket.

Opening the hatchback of my Toyota, I swing the bags of groceries into the trunk. I slide into the driver's seat and guide the car—out the exit this time—onto Duboce Avenue. There are no cars waiting for my spot. The mysterious Monday midmorning rush has vanished.

Driving home, my thoughts drift to Penelope, patiently waiting for her husband Odysseus to return from the Trojan War—an ancient Greek heroine who surfaces suddenly from some recess of my mind, demanding to be remembered.

The handwriting is round and bold.

The note, indignant: *I can't believe how rude some people can be cutting in line in front of patiently waiting people. Live with your own selfishness.*

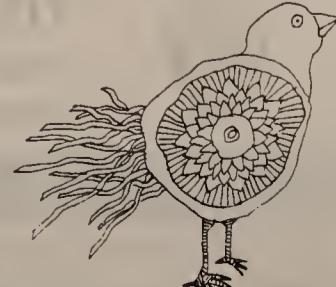
Inside my front door, I leave the groceries in their brown paper bags and rummage on my bookshelves for Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, the copy I've had since my freshman year in college. I read about the patiently waiting Penelope, who weaves and unweaves her work to forestall the suitors who throng about her court while Odysseus journeys for 10 years from one perilous adventure to another trying to get home.

I imagine the author of that note is a woman too, a latter-day Penelope, someone much like me schooled in the virtues of waiting, someone I have betrayed by living completely selfishly for one brief moment.

I had thrilled to the feel of reckless abandon.

I resolved then and there it wouldn't happen again. □

Cynthia Schrager is a freelance writer who lives on 23rd Street. She says she's open to carpooling to Rainbow Grocery.



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Flag Day Sept. 12: Each year the students at Alvarado School create paper flags inspired by their family background. Then they take a walk through the neighborhood, with flags raised aloft. Everyone agreed that this year's parade was the best ever.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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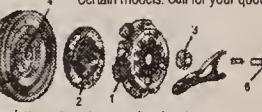
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The Scariest Places to Be On Halloween

By Michele Lynn

The little boys and ghouls of Noe Valley will be frightfully busy on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, making the rounds of the neighborhood haunts.

Kids who attend Marilyn Anne Lucas' Haunted House—a 17-year tradition in Noe Valley—will be magically transported to Babylonia. Says the Haunted House Lady cryptically, "This year we will travel to a time long ago and a place far away: the ancient land of Egypt, where we will visit the tomb of the Egyptian Cat Mummy, learn the stories and secrets of the ancient Egyptians, and find out how and why they made mummies."

The unveiling will take place at Lucas' secret cottage on Hoffman Avenue between 24th and Elizabeth streets. Just look for the house with the most decorated windows.

The first 350 kids who stop by between 5 and 8 p.m. will receive a bag of treats, Lucas says. Volunteers are also welcome. Give her a call at Lucas Realty, 285-6265, if you can help.

At Real Food Company, kids 12 and under are invited to dress up for the second annual Costume Contest. They can come by the store at 3939 24th St. (near Sanchez) any time on Halloween and have their photo taken. A panel of judges will award prizes to the winners in sev-



Ooooooh. It's the Kitchen Witch (Dion Drislane) and Oscar the dog, wishing you a Happy Halloween.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

eral categories, including scariest, most original, and cutest. The photos will be posted in the window and the winners will be announced Nov. 1. All trick-or-treaters will be awarded a healthy snack.

Kids of all ages can participate in Real Food's Pumpkin Carving Contest. Leave your work of art at the store on Halloween. Judges will award a \$25 store gift certificate to the most original.

The winner will also be announced on Saturday, Nov. 1. Beth Saunders, Real Food's manager, says that Noe Valley res-

idents should keep an eye out for the Val-Pak coupons that arrive in the mail; they will contain an offer of a free pumpkin from Real Food.

Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets will be the site of a free Halloween Carnival from 3:30 until 6 p.m. Kids ages 5 to 14 can enjoy the games, costume contest, candy, and prizes that recreation director Chris Borg is planning.

Over at the One Stop Party Shop at 1600 Church St., a witch will be casting

spells on trick-or-treaters as she stirs her bubbling cauldron. Those brave enough to face her can stop by the store to receive candy starting at 11 a.m. (The shop will stay open until the stroke of midnight.)

Meanwhile, Carol Yenne, of Small Frys on 24th Street, says her store and those of many other merchants in Downtown Noe Valley will be eagerly awaiting visits from the neighborhood's princesses, pirates, and toads. Bring a big bag for all the treats! □

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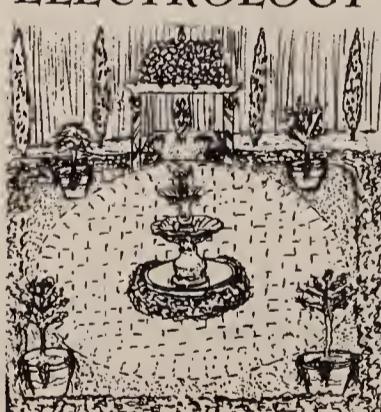
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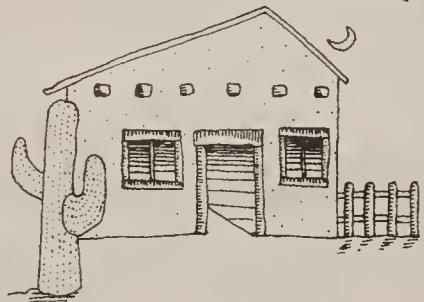
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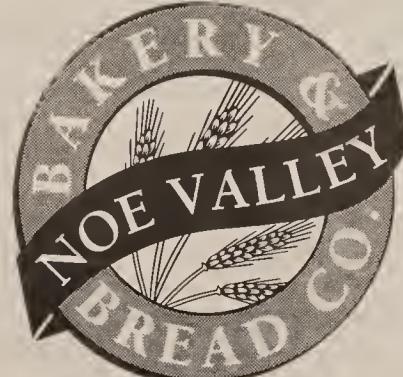


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LINGUINE WITH BAY SHRIMP In a garlic cream sauce with diced tomatoes	8.95	11.45
MARINATED PORK CHOPS Grilled center-cut, served with mashed potatoes and glazed roesmary carrots	9.95	12.45
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With grilled eggplant, zucchini and red peppers in meat sauce or marinara sauce	6.95	
SPICY BUFFALO WINGS With ranch or blue cheese dip	5.95	
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Sauteed with red bell peppers, onions, capers and olives. Served in a tomato sauce with rice and vegetables	10.75	13.25
PENNE RIGATTE With grilled chicken, broccoli, and zucchini in a lemon cream sauce	8.95	11.45

Pasta Specials

A La Carte: \$ 9.25
Dinner: \$11.75

1. **BAKED PENNE** Meat, marinara, or cream sauce topped with ricotta, parmesan, mozzarella
2. **PENNE PRIMAVERA** Grilled eggplant, zucchini, and red bell pepper in red sauce
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4. **PENNE ALA POLLO** Chicken strips, onions, bell pepper and fresh tomato in red sauce
5. **LINGUINE VERDE** Onion, zucchini, spinach and artichoke hearts in pesto sauce
6. **LINGUINE MARGHERITA** Fresh tomato, basil, garlic, crushed red pepper and chunks of white mozzarella cheese — lite red sauce
7. **LINGUINE TOSCANA** Chicken strips, grilled zucchini, onion, mushroom, capers and roasted garlic — lite red sauce
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#3	Onions, sausage, salami, pepperoni, mushrooms & bell peppers	10.55	13.25	16.45	20.15
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#6	LUIGI THE ITALIAN: Pesto, garlic, fresh tomatoes	8.75	10.85	13.45	16.55
#7	PANCHO VILLA: Jalapeños, bell peppers, onions, linguica & tomatoes	9.95	12.45	15.45	18.95
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#9	THE MERMAID: Clams & garlic	8.75	10.85	13.45	16.55
#10	OLD MACDONALD: Marinated chicken, fresh garlic, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.35
#11	CLEOPATRA: Grilled eggplant, sundried tomatoes, fresh garlic, feta cheese (your choice of tomato sauce or pesto sauce)	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.35
#12	JOLLY GREEN GIANT: Broccoli, zucchini, fresh garlic, onions, mushrooms & tomatoes Deluxe (includes artichoke hearts)	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.25
#13	MEDITERRANEAN VEGETARIAN COMBO: Grilled eggplant, grilled zucchini, red onion, red bell pepper, feta cheese & roasted garlic	11.75	14.85	18.45	22.55



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OCTOBER

OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29: Rearrange your seven letters, W, E, P, N, S, E and H, into a word and score an extra 50 points at SCRABBLE NIGHTS. 7:30 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160

OCT. 2: Children 7 to 13 are invited to "Brave Art, Seeing and Doing," featuring the work of children's BOOK ILLUSTRATORS; a hands-on art project follows. 3:30 pm. Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th St. 695-5090.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Java 'n' More Cafe hosts an OPEM MIC for acoustic music and poets at 7 pm (6:30 sign-up). 1351 Church St. Call Jeff Troiano, 282-2216.

OCT. 2-DEC. 11: SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING classes begin at 8 pm Thursdays. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

OCT. 3: SITARIST Habib Khan performs the music of North India. 7:30-9:30 pm. Integral Yoga Institute. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

OCT. 3-5: Evangel King, Mary Armentrout, and Mary Reid perform original DANCE choreography at the Dancers' Group Studio Theater. 8 pm; Sun., 7:30. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

OCT. 4: Find strange and useful treasures at a multifamily GARAGE SALE on the corner of Sanchez and Cesar Chavez. 9 am-?

OCT. 4: The All Our Families Coalition hosts a FAMILY DAY for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered families and friends. 11 am-4 pm. Unitarian Center, Geary & Franklin. 681-1960.

OCT. 4: Boys and girls 8 to 15 can compete in the NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass, and Kick competition at Kezar Stadium. 11 am. 753-7028 to enter.

OCT. 4: Zephyr Real Estate sponsors a RENT CONTROL panel discussion. 2-4 pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 695-0552, ext. 262.

OCT. 4: New Dawn Yoga Therapy's "Fundamentals of ASANA" workshops focus on breath and movement. 2-6 pm. The Center for Movement Education, 98 Cheshire St. 285-1831.

OCT. 4: Reginald Hill signs his two latest MYSTERIES, *Killing the Lawyers* and *The Woods Beyond*. 2:30-3:30 pm. The S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 4: JANELL CANNON, author of *Stellaluna* and *Verdi*, appears at Cover to Cover. 3 pm. 3910 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 4: PIANIST Davide Verotta performs a solo recital. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

OCT. 4: MICHAEL MANRING, Larry Kassin, and Tom Darter perform solo, duo, and trio sets. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 4 & 5: The eighth annual REGGAE IN THE PARK benefits Global Exchange. 11 am-6 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 383-9378.

OCT. 5: Check out the fun at the CASTRO STREET FAIR, including a country-and-western dancing starting at noon at 18th and Hartford. 10 am-6 pm. Castro & Market. 467-3354.



British opera star Alison Buchanan will sing at a benefit gala for the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series Oct. 19, 5 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

OCT. 5: All creatures barking and clawing are invited to the BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS service at Bethany Church. (Birds and invertebrates, too.) 11 am. Sanchez & Clipper. 647-8393.

OCT. 5: Chattanooga CHAMBER MUSIC features a concert by the Streicher Trio. 3 pm. 152 Chattanooga St. Reservations: call Kathy or Mark Perl at 641-0904.

OCT. 6: Will Fergie appear at WEIGHT WATCHERS' organizational meeting? 6:30 pm. Golden Gate Metropolitan Church, 1508 Church St. 206-0760.

OCT. 6-10: Observe California RIDESHARE WEEK, and you can enter a drawing for a tropical trip for two. Call 1-800-755-POOL for carpool info.

OCT. 6-11: Pacific Dance Theater offers free DANCE CLASSES for new students in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day. 70 Otis St. 626-6623.

OCT. 7: ROBERT B. PARKER signs the first novel in a new series, *Night Passage*. Noon. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 7: Principal PHYLLIS MATSUNO and David Ramirez, PhD, look ahead to consider the skills students will need in the 21st century. Potluck, 6 pm; program, 7-8:30 pm. Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St. 695-5695.

OCT. 7: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a free PET LOSS support group for grieving pet owners at the SPCA. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

OCT. 7, 14 & 21: The Noe Valley Library offers STORY TIME for ages 3-5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 647-3753.

OCT. 7, 14, 21 & 28: JAZZ DANCE in the Valley features ongoing classes and new moves each month. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call Lauren, 282-2782.

OCT. 7, 14, 21 & 28: A Chess and CHECKERS CLUB for children of all ages meets at the Ingleside Library at 3:30 pm. 387 Ashton Ave. 337-4745.

OCT. 8: Alan Clements leads a conversation with Nobel Peace Prize winner AUNG SAN SUU KYI. 7:30 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

OCT. 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents begins at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 8-NOV. 26: New Dawn Yoga Therapy teaches a CHAIR YOGA class designed by the Arthritis Foundation. Wednesdays, 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831.

OCT. 10: Make a HALLOWEEN MASK at a crafts workshop at the Main Library. 3:30 pm. 100 Larkin St. 557-4554.

OCT. 11: Noe Valley Ministry's annual FLEA MARKET and bake sale offers two floors of bargains. 10 am-4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 11: Laidley Street's BLOCK SALE involves dozens of sellers and collectibles. 10 am-4 pm. Laidley Street (enter at the southern end of Noe) from Harper to Miguel. 695-1132.

OCT. 11: Shanti's HALLOWEEN PARTY for families with HIV/AIDS offers games, costume making, and pumpkin carving. 3-6 pm. 1546 Market St. 487-4743.

OCT. 11: English master GUITARIST Adrian Legg performs at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 11 & 12: The S.F. BUDDHIST CENTER offers a workshop, "Art in Buddhist Ritual." 37 Bartlett St. 282-2018.

OCT. 12: Celebrate IMMIGRANT PRIDE DAY at festivities on 24th Street between Mission and South Van Ness. Call 641-0289 for info.

OCT. 12: Integral Yoga Institute's annual OPEN HOUSE features Hatha Yoga classes, meditation, and lunch. 9:30 am-4:30 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

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CALENDAR

OCT. 12: Local authors sign their latest books at the S.F. MYSTERY Bookstore. Noon–1 pm: Susan Holtzer and Diane Day; 1–2 pm: Janet Dawson and Robert Lee Hall; 2–3 pm: Lynn Murray, Ray Peters, and out-of-town guest Aljean Harmelz. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 12: Noe Valley Ministry's TAIZE (formerly *cantate*) service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 13: The Adventist HEALTHVAN offers blood pressure and cholesterol screening at Castro & 18th. 10 am–4 pm. 775-2570.

OCT. 15: Professor D.B. Greene discusses the OPERA *Elektra* at noon. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

OCT. 16: A PUBLIC MEETING to discuss ESP III, a bond issue that would borrow funds for seismic renovation of the Noe Valley Library, begins at 6:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 18: Shanti Project's "Ride for Life" is a MOTORCYCLE benefit originating in both L.A. and S.F. and converging at San Luis Obispo's Avila Beach for a festival, barbecue, and concert. 1-800-557-5357.

OCT. 18: The S.F. Waldorf School's OPEN HOUSE offers an introduction to this teaching method for parents and educators. 9 am–noon. 2938 Washington St. 931-2750.

OCT. 18: William Haywood Henderson will sign his new book, *The Rest of the Earth*, at 1 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 18: Make a PLASTER CASTING of your face or hands and print it (dress for mess!). 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

OCT. 18: AMNESTY International's Group 80 sponsors a write-a-thon on the behalf of Tibetan prisoner of conscience Phuntsog Nyidron. 1–5 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 587-7299 or 826-9414.

OCT. 18: Middle Eastern chamber music trio DAVKA performs with Go Van Gogh. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 18 & 19: Voice staffers Karol Barske and Scott Paterson exhibit watercolors and acrylic paintings in conjunction with OPEN STUDIOS. 10 am–5 pm. 1352 Sanchez St. 285-6347.

OCT. 19: The Glen Park COMMUNITY FESTIVAL promises a pumpkin patch, live music, booths, and a raffle. 11 am–4 pm. Diamond at Wilder. 239-4375.

OCT. 19: PIANIST Walter E. Ahlstedt performs a solo recital featuring works by Bach, Mozart, and Mendelssohn. 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

OCT. 19: The Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series presents a gala benefit concert featuring works by Rachmaninov and Schubert, followed by a champagne reception. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

OCT. 19: A neighborhood RESTAURANT CRAWL benefits the Noe Valley Ministry and features Savor, Java 'n' More, the Courtyard Cafe, and Mikey-Tom Market. 5–7 pm. 282-8526.

OCT. 19–NOV. 5: ArtBeat Gallery hosts a Dia de los Muertos ALTAR INSTALLATION by Jose Ramon Lerma. 10 am–10 pm; Sun., 1–5 pm. 3266 21st St. 643-8721.

OCT. 22: To celebrate the Autumn Moon Festival, the Flowing Stream Ensemble and the Community Music Center Chinese Music Workshop perform "Music from Gold Mountain with MOON POETRY." 7 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

OCT. 22: Carol Lloyd Weber discusses her CAREER survival book, *Creating a Life Worth Living*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

OCT. 22–NOV. 4: Keith Heligman exhibits "Deception in CLAY: Death and Moxie in the Post-Industrial Age." Ruby's Clay Studio, 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

OCT. 24: Noe Valley Ministry hosts a "Halloween/Day of the Dead" POTLUCK and community night. 6:30–9:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 25: The San Francisco Mothers of TWINS CLUB holds a clothing, toy, and equipment sale from 9 am–3 pm. St. John of God, 5th Ave. at Irving.

OCT. 25: The S.F. Waldorf School hosts a PUPPET SHOW by the Paul Thaxter Marionette Theatre. 10:30 am. 2938 Washington St. 931-2750.

OCT. 25: Yvonne Littleton leads a class in making SKELETON MASKS. 1 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

OCT. 25: The San Francisco Consort performs MEDIEVAL MUSIC with a Halloween accent. 2 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4554.

OCT. 25: Natural Resources hosts a CLASS for parents, "Helping Our Children Sleep." 4–6 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

OCT. 26: S.F. Animal Care and Control hosts a PET PRIDE DAY featuring demonstrations, freebies, and a dog costume contest. 11 am–3 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 554-9414.

OCT. 28: FILMS for preschoolers include *Ana in the Rainforest*, *Doctor DeSoto*, and *Red Riding Hood*. 10 and 11 am. The Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 29: High schoolers are invited to the Randall Museum's Cine/Club Surrealist HALLOWEEN gala featuring Bunuel's *L'Age D'Or* and a costume parade. 6:30 pm. 199 Museum Way, 864-2026.

OCT. 31: Upper Noe Recreation Center lures kids 5 to 14 to a Halloween FESTIVAL with a costume contest, candy, and prizes. 3:30–6 pm. Day & Sanchez.

OCT. 31: The Haunted House Lady will display the Egyptian Cat Mummy's tomb at Noe Valley's 17th annual Haunted House. First 350 kids who stop by from 5 to 8 pm will get a bag of treats. Hoffman Ave. between 24th & Elizabeth.

OCT. 31: The Randall Museum's HAUNTED MANSION offers thrills for all ages, including a hot dinner with brain jello and keyboard music by Dracula's Daughter. 6–9 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9603.



OCT. 31: The Community Music Center Orchestra performs a HALLOWEEN/Day of the Dead concert of spooky favorites and the world premiere of Michael Kimball's *Symphony No. 1*. 8 pm. First Congregational Church, corner of Post and Mason St. 647-6015.



You must remember this,
a kiss is still a kiss, a smile is still a
smile, and the deadline to get in the
November calendar is Oct. 15.

Send your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail us at jaxvoice@aol.com.

If all goes well, the November 1997 *Voice* will be happily distributed throughout Noe Valley starting Wednesday, Oct. 29.

If you have questions or last-minute changes, call the lovely Karol Barske at 285-6347. □

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October 11–12, 1997

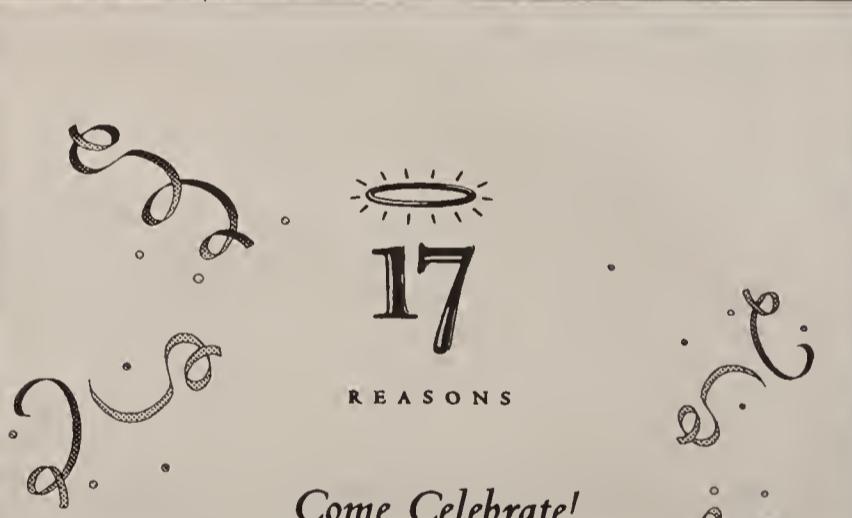


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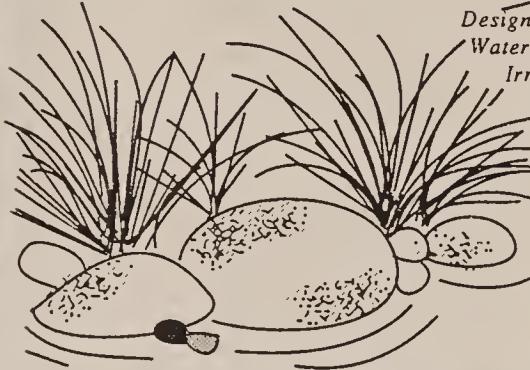


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Margaret A. Chesney, Ph.D.
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Music for the Soul

By Robert Moon

Are you looking for a place to go on Sunday afternoons that will rest your soul, revitalize your spirit, and rejuvenate your senses? Try the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series, dubbed Sunday Afternoons at the Ministry.

Forget all the stereotypes you've heard about chamber music. The reality of the experience is that it involves live human beings communicating their passion and love for music in a setting that's informal, intimate, and acoustically superb. The Bay Area is teeming with excellent musicians who love to perform in small groups, and the Noe Valley Ministry is one of their favorite places to play.

The chamber music series was started in 1992 by Karen Heather, then administrator for the Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez St. Her inspiration was the Noe Valley Music Series, the successful Saturday night concerts that showcase folk, jazz, and world music. The Noe Valley Music Series has been enthralling audiences in the cavernous upstairs sanctuary of the church for 16 years.

Being a classical pianist, Heather wanted to offer classical musicians and the Noe Valley public the opportunity to hear chamber music in the space as well. Musicians were ecstatic about the wonderful acoustics, and audiences discovered that chamber music played in an unpretentious setting was fun.

The classical series was expanded to 10 concerts in 1993 and has remained at that level ever since. Last year the Noe Valley Ministry and the Artaria Quartet received a grant from Chamber Music

America and the National Endowment for the Arts for a residency that included 40 concerts in schools, senior centers, and hospitals throughout the city. The highlight of the residency was a series of informal presentations called "From the Inside Out." Each event focused on the relationship between a non-stringed instrument and the various string instruments played by members of the quartet. The experiment recreated the salon-like environment that chamber music was written for, with verbal interaction between performers and audience. This year the Artaria's residency will be continued at St. Gregory's Church on Potrero Hill.

While the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series has been successful, Heather wants to attract a younger audience to the Sunday afternoon events. Last year she provided free babysitters for parents during the concerts. This year she plans to form a youth advisory committee, as a step toward designing a time and format that will appeal to the 25 to 40 age group. She feels that the chamber music format, along with the fabulous sound of the Ministry building, offers a unique chance for families to connect verbally and emotionally with musicians in a down-to-earth way.

The 1996-97 series opens with a gala benefit concert on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 5 p.m. The featured artist will be soprano Alison Buchanan, the wonderful San Francisco Opera 1996 Adler fellow who originally hails from Bedford, England. She sang Micaella for a performance of *Carmen* that I heard this winter and brought down the house with her sweet but powerful performance.

Buchanan will be joined by pianist Steven Prutsman, whose playing was heard on the feature-length film about Beethoven titled *Immortal Beloved*. Also performing will be clarinetist

Joanne Eisler, a founding member of the group San Francisco Pro Musica; and Noe Valley's own Emil Miland, a cellist with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. The program will feature music by Rachmaninov, Schubert, and Ned Rorem, plus a selection of spirituals, followed by a champagne reception. (For ticket reservations, which are \$25 for this special benefit, call 333-9444.)

Other concerts this season will include a Brahms' string sextet performed by the Chamber Ensemble of the Pacific on Sunday, Nov. 9; Voci, a women's chamber choir on Dec. 14; a woodwind concert featuring San Francisco Symphony musician Steven Dibner; the Cypress String Quartet in March; the Adessa Ensemble in April; and the renaissance group Whole Noyse in May. Concerts are normally at 2 p.m. and cost \$10 (\$5 students and seniors).

Why not try something different and go to one of the best and most exciting classical music concerts right in your neighborhood? See you there. □

Robert Moon is the author of Full Frequency Sound, a discography of London/Decca early stereo classical recordings. He also writes for Classical CD Digest.



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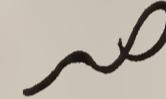
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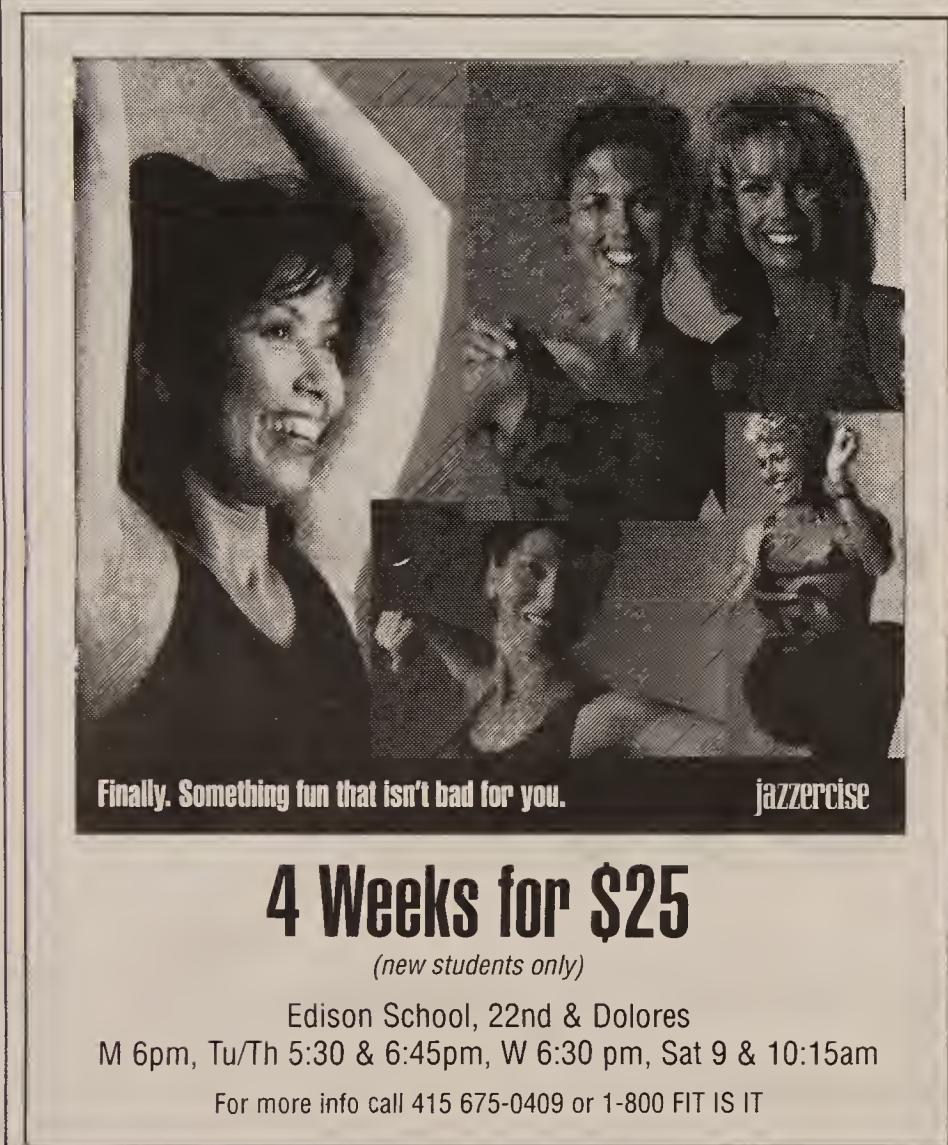
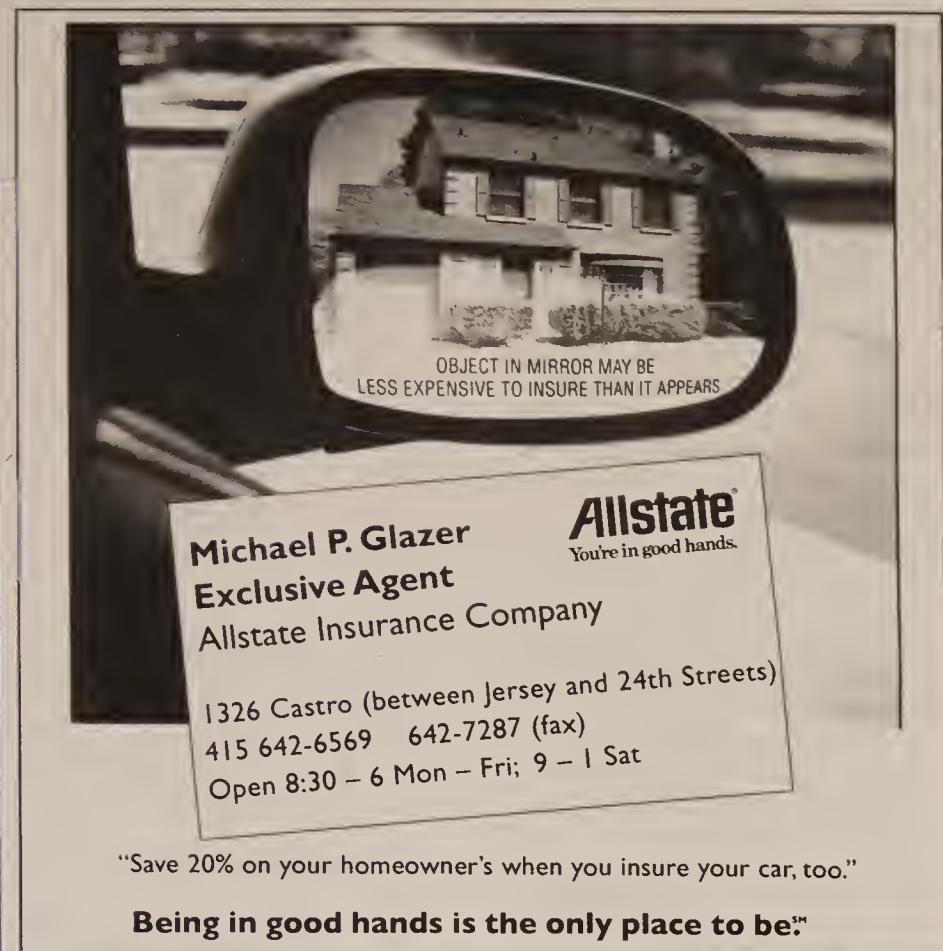
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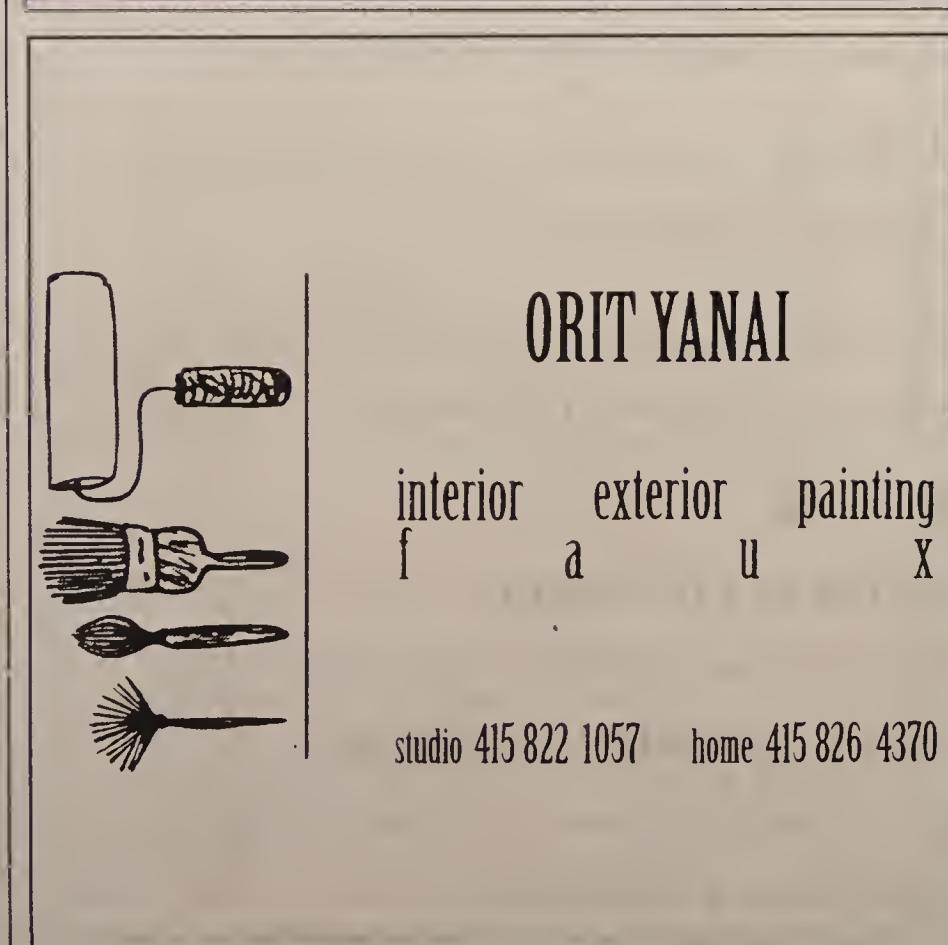


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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

Trick-or-Treat Soup

By Ruhama Veltfort

I was burrowed deep in the closet in the spare bedroom, rummaging among my clothing relics from the '60s and '70s, trying to put something together for Halloween.

A witch? A hobo? Maybe I should just dress up as a hippie. I wasn't planning to go anywhere, but Aunt Hermione and I always dressed up to pass out treats to the many children who came trick-or-treating at our house. Nowadays, parents and kids seemed to view Noe Valley as a destination neighborhood—just as my own kids had gone off to Pacific Heights to trick-or-treat 20 years ago.

"I do hope you're not taking all the Gypsy clothes for yourself!" Aunt Hermione had come up behind me.

"I haven't really decided on anything yet, Auntie," I said. "What do you think we should be this year?"

"Well, dear," she said mischievously, "this year I'm afraid I'm going to be leaving you on your own."

I backed out of the closet and sat down on the futon couch I kept for the occasional overnight guest.

"Really?" I asked. "What are you planning?"

She twinkled. "Why, Dave and I are going to a party at the senior center, and we've decided to both dress as Gypsies. He plays the violin, you know! And I thought I could cover a white balloon with a lot of Saran Wrap and glitter, so it looks sort of sparkly, like a crystal ball, and..."

I had never seen her so animated. I had to admit I was a little jealous. I'd met her new friend once or twice before, when I'd stopped by the senior center to see how Auntie was doing. She'd started going there a few months ago, to take part in a ballroom dance class they were offering on Fridays.

No, I didn't really think Aunt Hermione was the "senior center type." But her doctor had said last June that she might be getting a little depressed. He'd recommended she try getting out

more on her own. If that didn't help brighten her mood, maybe she should consider Prozac.

Well, the trips to the senior center seemed to be working. They were a lot healthier for her, and certainly less expensive than those pills. But I didn't expect quite this level of exuberance.

From somewhere I forced out a big smile. I really did want her to be happy. "That sounds like fun, Auntie."

"You bet it is!" she beamed. "I never imagined I would meet a man who was so much fun and so easy to talk to. You know, Dave's had a very interesting life—he was a longshoreman here for many years. He and his wife were active in all sorts of political things, and he is extremely well read. Why, one of his sons actually lived among real Gypsies in Spain and made a little film about it. So we're going to be authentic."

I doubted there was anything authentic about wrapping a balloon in plastic and calling it a crystal ball, but I didn't say anything. With a sigh, I heaved myself up off the futon and went back to the closet.

I handed out a long, gathered skirt in a purple and orange paisley print. Had I ever actually worn such a garment? It was hard to believe.

"Well, how about this? And wait a minute..."

I fished around in the back and found what I was looking for: a huge, black-embroidered white piano shawl with a long fringe that I'd been unable to resist at the Alameda Flea Market.

"Fabuloso!" Aunt Hermione clutched the shawl. "Just the ticket!"

I was figuratively scratching my head—"fabuloso"? Aunt Hermione's friend Dave seemed to be teaching her a whole new vocabulary. My expression must have shown something less than joy, because suddenly Aunt Hermione put the shawl down on the futon and reached up to put a thin arm around my shoulders. "Now don't be mopey, dear. I've invited Dave to have supper with us first, and I'll do the cooking."

Aunt Hermione's cooking was always something to look forward to, but I was still looking for inspiration for a costume. I looked up at the window, and Auntie looked with me.

"There it is!" she exclaimed. "Those white lace curtains!"

"An angel?" I was doubtful. It didn't seem very Halloween-ish.

"Don't be silly. You can be a fairy godmother! I'll have plenty of glitter left over, and we can make a wand out

Cream of Carrot Soup

Ingredients

1/2 stick butter
1 medium size onion, chopped
6 to 8 carrots (about 1-1/2 pounds), chopped
2 medium boiling potatoes (about 1-1/2 pounds), chopped
2 teaspoons "herbs de Provence"
1/4 cup brandy
6 cups water
2 teaspoons powdered chicken stock
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 cup white wine (Chardonnay)
1 cup milk
1 cup cream
Fresh chopped Italian parsley for garnish

Melt the butter in a large soup pot with a heavy bottom. Cook the chopped vegetables slowly in the butter for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Then add the herbs and cook 2 minutes more. Add the brandy and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Add the water and chicken stock powder, bring to a boil, then turn the heat down and simmer for an hour, stirring occasionally. Puree the cooked vegetables a little at a time in a blender or food processor, and return to the pot. Add wine and bring to a boil again, then simmer for 5 minutes. Add the milk and cream, and heat until the soup is almost boiling, but not quite.

Serve garnished with chopped parsley. Makes about 2 quarts of soup. (Left-over soup can be frozen.)

At our Halloween dinner, I decided I really liked Dave. He called me "young lady," and he had a "fabuloso" sense of humor. He told a very funny joke about Mick Jagger and a Scotsman named MacJagger, but I can't repeat it in a family newspaper.

Aunt Hermione and Dave looked like a real pair of Gypsies, and my fairy godmother costume must have worked, because it was a warm dry evening in spite of the prediction for rain. Aunt Hermione made a delicious cream of carrot soup that was just the right color for the holiday. We served it with some good fresh bread and a green salad, and shared a bottle of Chardonnay. It was quite a treat. □

If you have questions or comments about Aunt Hermione's recipes, you're welcome to send e-mail to ruh@value.net.

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Democratic Yays and Nays

The Noe Valley Democratic Club has made its endorsements for the Nov. 4 city election. The club supports Board of Supervisors member Susan Leal for City Treasurer, and Louise Renne (so far the only candidate) for City Attorney.

"We endorsed Susan Leal because she has a record of financial independence on the board," said club president Dave Monks, "and because of her background in economics and business. Plus, she lives in Noe Valley and has been attentive to the needs of the neighborhood."

The club also gave its seal of approval to propositions A through G. Props. A and B would issue more than \$300 million in revenue bonds for improvements to the city's water system. Prop. F would enable the city to sell off the land on Mount Davidson where the giant cross now sits. And Prop. G would require campaign consultants to register with the city ethics commission and file quarterly reports.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club did not take a stand on Prop. H, which authorizes Caltrans to rebuild parts of the Central Freeway and construct above-ground ramps north of Fell Street.

For more on the club vote, call Dave Monks at 821-4087.

Noe's Emergency Squad

As we come upon another anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake (Oct. 17), the Friends of Noe Valley and our local Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) are taking action to prepare for future disasters.

The Friends meeting on Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., will feature speaker Kent Paxton of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Services. Paxton will bring the group up to date on San Francisco's emergency plans and will discuss a citywide alert on Oct.



Directors Allie Light and Irving Saraf will join breast cancer activist Nancy Evans (right) in watching their documentary *Rachel's Daughters* on HBO during the month of October.

18 at 10 a.m. for current NERT members.

The "real-time" emergency exercise will be held at James Lick School at 1220 Noe St. "The premise is that we pretend a quake has happened," says Bill Kuhns of the Noe Valley team. "We then report five major disasters in the neighborhood, like collapsed buildings, streetcars off the tracks, and fires. We triage the disasters to determine what we can do about them."

The next Noe Valley training for NERT volunteers won't happen until March 1998, but an October training is scheduled in the Castro on six consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning Oct. 21. Trainings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Sanchez School, 325 Sanchez St.

"The training is very physical and lots of fun," says Kuhns. "Slides, demonstrations by firefighters, lots of hands-on first aid, and some search and rescue." For more information about NERT or Friends of Noe Valley, call Kuhns at 826-2304.

Book Lovers, Lend a Hand

The eighth annual San Francisco Bay

Area Book Festival is coming to the Exhibition Concourse Nov. 8–9, and organizers need volunteers to help with everything from setup and decorations to ticket sales and information booths.

Noe Valley's own Phoenix Books at 24th and Vicksburg will be among the exhibitors, which will include more than 300 publishers and booksellers. Several Noe Valley poets, including Mary Grambs, Cyra McFadden, Catherine Wagner, Mary Wings, and Jess Wells, will be reading from their work.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. The Concourse is located at Eighth and Brannan streets. If you can volunteer, call 908-2833.

Ways to Unlock Gridlock

Noe Valley residents who dread traveling to work may benefit from the 12th annual California Rideshare Week, Oct. 6 to 10. Organizers are offering prizes, including a mountain bike and a trip for two to Hawaii or Mexico, to commuters who pledge to carpool, vanpool, or take pub-

lic transportation during that week.

"For carpoolers, we send people a list of other people who have similar schedules, and leave it up to them to screen each other," says Katy Katzenberger of RIDES for Bay Area Commuters. "We also encourage biking and telecommuting. People in Noe Valley may even want to walk to the Financial District."

To register for California Rideshare Week, call 1-800-755-POOL or check out the Web site at www.rides.org. Entries must be received by Oct. 15, and prize winners will be announced by Nov. 20.

Let the Sun Shine In

You can find out how local residents use our sunny days to lower their utility bills by attending the National Solar Home Tour on Saturday, Oct. 18. The tour will include two homes in Noe Valley, one with a solar electric system and another with a solar water heating system. Homeowners will be on hand to answer questions about benefits, costs, and maintenance of their solar-powered homes.

In addition to the Noe Valley homes, the day-long San Francisco tour will include a third home on Potrero Hill, a solar-powered electric car charging system in the Presidio, and solar water-heating systems in residential complexes in the Mission and Western Addition.

The tour is sponsored by the Northern California Solar Energy Association (NCSEA), the American Solar Energy Society, and local coordinator Occidental Power. It will start at 10 a.m. at Occidental Power, 3629 Taraval, and proceed by van to other sites. Participants should bring a lunch and expect to return to Occidental Power around 5 p.m. The cost is \$15 for the general public, \$10 for NCSEA members. For details, contact Colleen O'Brien at 681-8861.

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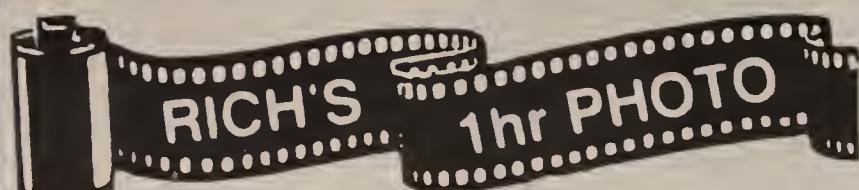
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SHORT TAKES

A Pumpkin Patch in Glen Park

Glen Park has put out the welcome mat for the second annual Glen Park Community Festival, to be held Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the heart of Glen Park at Diamond and Wilder streets.

Glen Park resident Kevin Janssen says, "For the children's area, we will be having face painting, a pumpkin patch, and crafts and games, as well as story time in the pumpkin patch. There will also be a fire truck for the little ones to climb on and a talking police car." The adult area will offer live music, crafts vendors, and information booths, "and an opportunity to sit down, relax, and enjoy the festival."

Raffle tickets will also be on sale, for prizes donated by more than a dozen Glen Park merchants, including Creighton's Bakery, Glen Park Books, Glen Park Dental, Sol Gym, and Tyger's Restaurant.

Proceeds from the festival will go toward summer scholarships for Silver Tree Day Camp and other community causes. "This year's festival is larger than last year's, but retains the flavor of what Glen Park is all about," says Janssen. To get on the bandwagon, call 239-4375.

Teach Tenant Rights

As rental prices soar, the San Francisco Tenants Union has been swamped with inquiries about tenants rights. To keep up with demand, the union will train new volunteer counselors starting this month.

"Volunteers will get an overview of tenant law that will include rent control, eviction, repairs, and maintenance," says the union's Ted Gullicksen. "There will be smaller sections on security deposits, roommates, and subletting." Gullicksen notes, "We have volunteer counselors right now who are from Noe Valley, and Noe Valley is one of the biggest areas for membership in the Tenants Union."

The training will be held on Saturdays Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 558 Capp St. To register, call the San Francisco Tenants Union at 282-6622.

Letters for a Tibetan Prisoner

On Oct. 18, from 1 to 5 p.m., Amnesty International Group 80—which meets at the Noe Valley Ministry on the first Thursday of each month—will sponsor a write-a-thon on behalf of a Tibetan prisoner, Phuntsog Nyidron. The letter-writing session will be held at Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St.

According to group member Dave Spitzer, Nyidron was sentenced to nine years in prison for chanting slogans and peacefully marching in support of Tibetan independence. "The demonstration lasted only a few minutes, but resulted in arrest, imprisonment, and torture for Nyidron and five other nuns," said Spitzer.

"Everybody is invited to come by and write a brief letter to the Chinese authorities appealing for her release. There will be speakers on the situation in Tibet, entertainment, and Tibetan food." For more information, call 587-7299 or 826-9414.

Dance at the Castro Street Fair

"The Castro Street Fair was founded by Harvey Milk in 1974," says Rick Thomas of the fair office, "and we continue it today as a tribute to him." The fair's 23rd anniversary will be Sunday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Festivities will be centered at Castro and Market and "radiate out from there," says Thomas.

As usual, all kinds of groups will be setting up booths. "Practically every AIDS group, political club, and social group will be there," Thomas says. Organizers also have made slots for dozens of arts and crafts booths, with the Best of Show arts and crafts located on Castro between 18th and 19th streets.

The fair's latest attraction is a country-and-western dance, set to take place from noon to 5 p.m. at the corner of 18th and Hartford. Call 467-3354 for the scoop.



This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant, Dodie Hamblen, and Jane Underwood.

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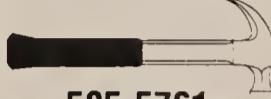


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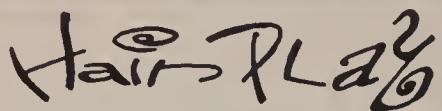
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**FLORENCE'S
FAMILY
ALBUM**
Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

A Man from Vladivostok

Last June we were surprised to receive an envelope in the mail that bore quite a dignified-looking insignia: a crown on top of a shield, with a tiger in the center, and, behind the tiger, two crossed anchors adorned with ribbons.

This turned out to be the coat of arms for the naval fortress of Vladivostok, on the east coast of Russia. Inside the envelope was an invitation to the 90th birthday celebration of "Fyodor 'Ted' Nikolaevich Merkuloff, son of Nikolai Dionisievich Merkulov and Stanislava Branislavovna."

Included in the announcement was the following impressive biography:

He was born July 5, 1907, na Cedanke, a beautiful forested, salmon- and Ussuri tiger-rich river valley just north of the great bastion of Vladivostok.

During the profound reign of the last tsar of all the Russias [Nicholas II], his monarchist father managed to build, at the Eastern Bosphorus, a home and family, become a successful match factory owner, and foment a counter-revolution. Always at his father's side, Ted saw it all.

When the Bolsheviks took power, the family fled to north China, where the happy-go-lucky Ted ran guns to Outer Mongolia, became a lieutenant colonel of an armored train division in a warlord's army, and went through yet another revolution. In the Far East he met his three (!) future wives. Ted saw it all.

After a few more global adventures, and a few years in San Francisco, and a few great-grandchildren, he is now happily ensconced in Calistoga in the Bay Area with his last wife Mushka. Truly, Ted has seen it all.

If you have a moment, perhaps send Ted a note to help celebrate his milestone [his 90th birthday]...

We immediately did so, for Ted is an old respected friend. Perhaps some longtime Noe Valley residents will remember the gentleman who lived in our neighborhood for many years.

My man Leo and I first met Ted and Lucy Merkuloff 30 years ago at Edison Elementary School, on one of those evenings set up for parents to visit the classroom and discuss their child's progress with the teacher. Our youngest son, Eric, and his classmate Walter Merkuloff had Ms. Geinzer—a dedicated teacher who worked hard to instill



Florence and Leo met Ted and Lucy Merkuloff more than 30 years ago at a parents night at Edison School. Their sons shared the same teacher, Ms. Geinzer (center). Photo by Leo Holub

a love of learning in her students' young minds. The boys were doing well and had already formed a close friendship, so it was especially pleasing to become acquainted with the friendly couple who were Walter's parents.

The Merkuloffs lived at 20th and Church, only a short distance away, so over the years we became friends and learned their eventful life story. Speaking in a slight Russian accent, Ted delivered his accounts with such passion, Leo and I often sat spellbound, marveling at his irrepressible spirit.

When Ted was a young man, his family fled to China after the Bolshevik revolution. I've never forgotten his description of running guns across the barren and formidable Gobi Desert. He rarely encountered anyone, he told us, but when he did, it was usually a band of Mongols—indigenous nomads who would invite him into their tent to share what little they possessed with a weary and hungry stranger.

Throughout his life, whenever Ted performed an unsolicited act of generosity, as he often did, he remembered the kindness of these nomads, saying, "I do it for the Mongols."

Ted was again forced to flee his home after the revolution in China. This time he escaped to the Philippine Islands, and there awaited a relief ship headed for a haven somewhere in the West.

During his stay in the Philippines, Ted met Lucy, another refugee escaping from China and his soon-to-be second wife. Much enamored of Lucy, Ted was determined to persuade her to marry him, even though she was engaged to another man. Lucy did not encourage him, yet he persisted.

Some of the older women among the refugees urged Lucy to wed this charming but penniless suitor. After all, he came from a distinguished Russian family. But others advised her to wait and marry the absent but affluent gentleman to whom she was already engaged.

Through it all, Ted refused to be discouraged, and conjured up a scheme to

turn the tide in his favor. Since he no longer possessed a wardrobe, he spent his last \$10 on a fine bathing suit. Then, with everyone on the beach watching, he strode into the surf, plunged into the waves, and swam out to sea—far out of sight. Once there, he paddled just enough to keep his head above water, drifting with the tide, floating on his back, anything to pass an hour or two. This was a piece of cake for him, because in his youth he had competed as an open ocean swimmer.

When ample time had passed, he headed for shore, and as he rose from the surf, a roar of relief went up from the crowd. More importantly, when he saw Lucy's tearful, fearful expression transform to joyfulness, he knew he had won her heart at last.

The refugee ship arrived, and the lovebirds married and honeymooned on board, in the company of refugees who,

like them, had little more than the bare necessities. One might assume that the voyage was a terrible ordeal, but in fact it was a high point in their lives. Their secret was that they were able to find enjoyment in the simplest of activities. Whenever a birthday of one of the passengers was approaching, they quietly hoarded pennies until they had enough to buy some tea leaves. On the appointed day, they brewed up a pot, and everyone partook of the rare treat as though it were a glass of champagne!

After many months and many ports, the ship docked at the Dominican Republic in the West Indies. Ted and Lucy were given temporary asylum until they could emigrate to the United States. As a young man, Ted had visited San Francisco and found it so enticing that he vowed to someday return. As soon as their visas arrived, the couple took a boat to Florida, then boarded a Greyhound bus that delivered them to the Bay Area.

We met Ted and Lucy a decade or so later, in the early '60s, after they had acquired their house in Noe Valley, where they were raising their daughter Natalie (Natasha) and son Walter (Vladimir).

We found Lucy to be a warm friend and loving mother and were charmed by her elegant manner of speech and style. The first time I saw her she was wearing a fur hat like those seen in Russian films. For the school bake sale, she brought Russian piroshki—delicious pastries filled with meat and onions—instead of cupcakes. When I gobbled down four, one after another, she kindly gave me her recipe. I have prepared and served piroshkis many times, and I always think of Lucy when I do.

When our sons graduated from James

Continued on Next Page

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**FLORENCE'S
FAMILY
ALBUM**
Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub



Continued from Previous Page

Lick Middle School, I sat with them as Ted and Lucy proudly watched Walter, who gave the valedictorian speech.

But Lucy had already developed a heart condition that soon took her life, leaving the family bereft, especially

Ted. He was inconsolable, and everyone worried about him. Friends and relatives from all over the country, alerted by the Russian grapevine, wrote letters of sympathy and words of advice.

One lady even offered her young daughter as a wife who would take good care of him. But to us he confided that he did not want a girl, he wanted a woman! And eventually he found her—

a mature, graceful "womanchka" named Mushka ("Little Fly"). She worked at the Russian Center, on the White Russian community newspaper *Russian Life*.

Amazingly, Ted had known Mushka when she was a ballet dancer in North China—a prima ballerina! Naturally, he began spending most of his time at the Russian Center, and it was not long before he had won Mushka's heart, too.

With Ted's children grown, the newlyweds moved to "the Avenues," where, as San Franciscans know, a large Russian-American colony now flourishes. The communication between our families dwindled to an exchange of cards at Christmas. A year ago, Ted and Mushka moved to Calistoga, to be closer to Natasha, who is now married.

Through most of his life, Ted has been unable to visit the place of his birth. During the Soviet regime, Vladivostok was a closed and guarded naval base. But after the fall of the U.S.S.R., the city reopened its gates. And Ted, one of the last living survivors of those who took part in the counterrevolution against the Bolsheviks, was invited in 1993 to attend a long overdue celebration—as a guest of honor. On a newly established direct flight, he returned after 71 years to the fortress city of his birth. He was accompanied by his son Walter, who still lives in Noe Valley.

Once there, Ted met the mayor and vice mayor, who held a news conference at City Hall in his honor. He donated his historical and original photos to the Provincial Museum, where he was also interviewed by the local historian. Later he saw himself on Russian television.

Yes, our 90-year-old friend has led a remarkable life. Leo and I can only say, Fyodor "Ted" Nikolaevich Merkuloff, we salute you!

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By Maire Farrington

Teo Jordan Branum

Although Susan Branum was expecting a boy, she was undecided on a name when she gave birth to her son at 9:25 a.m. on June 16, 1997. "The night after he was born, I was running all these names past him and I swear when I said 'Teo' he responded," she says.

Teo Jordan Branum arrived at U.C.S.F. Medical Center weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces. On hand to greet him were friend and labor coach Robin Bowman, midwife Angelika Nugent, and Branum's mother, Dixie Kastle, who made the trek from Texas to greet her grandson.

"It's the Spanish spelling and pronunciation," Branum says of her son's name (pronounced TAY-o), a derivative of Theodore. "Theodore in Greek means 'gift from God.' I've also seen it as 'divine gift.' So that's what he is."

The middle name, Jordan, was chosen because "it felt really peaceful to me. I had a list of names, and this one was really strong, but I didn't know until I met him who he was going to be."

Now that the name is official, "I call him everything *but* Teo," Branum confesses. "Little Roo [after the *Winnie the Pooh* character] is a favorite nickname, as is T-man. And my mom got me started on Punkie—it's kind of a Texas regular. But all the men in my family call him T.J. because they thought Teo was too weird."

Branum, 34, grew up in Texas and moved to San Francisco a decade ago. She settled in Noe Valley six years ago and set up a business, the Back Room Yoga and Bodywork Studio, at Sanchez and 25th streets. Last year while in Greece studying with her yoga teacher, Branum took a side trip to Turkey. There she met Teo's father, Baris.

Branum says she sees herself as a single parent, and is raising Teo on her own. But in late August, Baris, now living and studying in Washington, D.C., was already planning a trip to San Francisco to see his son.

"Teo has his father's eyes," Branum says, "except that his father's are emerald green, and so far Teo's are blue. All my family has brown eyes, so I don't know if they're going to change." He also has his dad's thick, dark brown hair.

But Teo has his mother's full, shapely mouth, with which he recently mastered the art of smiling and cooing. "Sometimes he looks up demurely from under his lashes and I can tell he's wanting to smile," says Mom. "Then I'll say something, and he'll break into this grin. And he really loves to talk—he's going to be pretty outgoing; I'm outgoing, and his dad is also, so that's a given."

Teo measured 21 inches at birth and is



Three-month-old Teo makes eyes at mom Susan Branum, who (he'll soon find out) is also an expert yoga teacher.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

big for his age. "He's a sturdy guy," Branum says. "He's already starting to push with his feet when he's laying on his stomach, and kicking a lot when he's on his back. At eight weeks he was holding his head up straight. I have a feeling he's going to be sitting and walking early."

Trying to catch his fist in his mouth provides no end of fascination, Branum adds. Sometimes he's even successful. And, says Mom, "He'll suck on anything except a pacifier!"

Branum has taken some time off work to nest with Teo at her home on Eureka Street, but the two often enjoy a morning jaunt down to the yoga studio to check on business, and then to the post office on 24th Street.

"Mornings are his best time," says Branum. "He sleeps with me, and we wake up and do 'love fest,' as I call it." While Mom showers, Teo entertains himself with the tropical fish mobile above his crib. "He loves his fish mobile," Branum notes. "He watches it and makes a cry when it stops, so I can move it again."

It's no wonder Teo likes to hang out in his bedroom. The walls are painted with beautiful depictions of an angel, an imaginary 'spirit-guide' animal, and fairies with gold dust, as well as a heron, winged insects, and plants. The mural was a gift from four of Branum's yoga students.

"I have a great group of friends and tons of support," Branum says. "People from the studio, and other new parents who share care together and hang out. It's wonderful."

She and Teo also like to socialize at a mom-baby support class at Natural Re-

sources, as well as with neighbor Beth Rubenstein-Markiowicz and baby Danya, born six months before Teo. Sometimes they head out to Marin to see Teo's friend Madeleine, six weeks his senior.

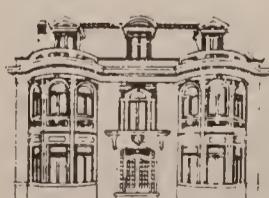
Teo's calm temperament, Branum notes, has made the passage to parenthood that much nicer. "He's a mellow dude. He lets me know what he wants, and otherwise he's all smiles. I actually prayed for that," she says with a grin. "I

figured I could do this on my own if he was easygoing!"

Branum reflects for a moment. "To sleep next to him. To see him recognize me and my voice.... I feel honored to be guiding this one in. It still hasn't hit me that I really am a mom and that we're going to be together forever. It's just one big huge reward."

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MORE BOOKS to READ

Your Neighborhood Library Is an Urban Oasis

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is a Carnegie-style building tucked among the Victorians in the block of Jersey between Castro and Diamond streets. In addition to books—including special women's and children's collections—the branch has videos, CDs, Internet access, a deck and garden, and an archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; phone: 695-5095. This month's new book suggestions were annotated by librarians Carol Small and Susan Kantor-Horning.

What's New — Adult Fiction

❖ Molly Giles' latest collection of short fiction, *Creek Walk and Other Stories*, offers laughter and insight into the lives of women attempting to break free from old patterns.

❖ Eleanor Arnason blends suspenseful science fiction with social speculation in the entertaining and provocative novel *Ring of Swords*.

❖ After being held for ransom and having her family refuse to pay, the young heiress in Nicola Griffith's sci-fi novel *Slow River* struggles for survival and independence.

Adult Nonfiction

❖ *Discovering the Body's Wisdom* is holistic health researcher Mirka Knaster's guide to more than 50 mind-body practices including massage, yoga, reflexology, and Rolfing.

❖ *ErgoWise: A Personal Guide to Making Your Workspace Comfortable and Safe*, by William Schaffer and Rab Cross, will help to improve your work environment and reduce your risk of injury.

❖ Tristine Rainer demonstrates how to apply the principles of contemporary autobiographical writing to transform *Your Life As Story*.

Children's Fiction

❖ After a difficult day with Dad, a little girl promises to keep her playmate under firmer control in *Contrary Bear* by Phyllis Root. Ages 3 to 5.

❖ Valentine's skills and initiative are helpful as her family realizes their goal in *The Dream Jar* by Bonnie Pryor. Ages 6 to 8.

❖ A talking dog saves the day by fighting back against a greedy company owner in *Martha Blah Blah* by Susan Meddaugh. Ages 5 to 8.

❖ During time spent with his visiting grandfather, a boy gains knowledge of his relatives and his place in the family in *Grandpa Was a Cowboy* by Silky Sullivan. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ When Mr. Potter acquires his pet mynah bird, he has no idea that this will lead to his being reunited with his childhood sweetheart, in *Mr. Potter's Pet* by Dick King-Smith. Ages 8 to 11.

Children's Fiction continued

❖ In *A Girl Named Disaster*, by Nancy Farmer, 11-year-old Nharno runs away to escape an arranged marriage, but must survive on her own in the jungle before reaching Zimbabwe. Ages 11 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

❖ In *The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries*, Julie Cummins and Roxie Munro have given us a glimpse into many different sizes and types of libraries all over the world. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ If you're in the mood for a Fruity Smoothie, Hot Apple Planet, or Eggstraterrestrials, you can make these and more with *Messipes: A Microwave Cookbook of Deliciously Messy Masterpieces*, by Lynn Gordon. Ages 8 and up.

Movies, Stories, and Lapsits

❖ The library will show films for kids 3 to 5 on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 10 and 11 a.m. This month's fare includes *Ana in the Rainforest*, *Doctor de Soto*, and *Red Riding Hood*.

❖ Preschool story time is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, and 21.

❖ Babies and toddlers are invited for songs and stories at the Wednesday-evening lapsits, Oct. 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Noe Valley Library Needs Quakeproofing

The San Francisco Public Library and the Department of Public Works will cosponsor a public meeting Oct. 16 to discuss a proposed 1998 ballot measure that would fund seismic renovations at the Noe Valley Branch, 451 Jersey St. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Call 695-5095 for more information.

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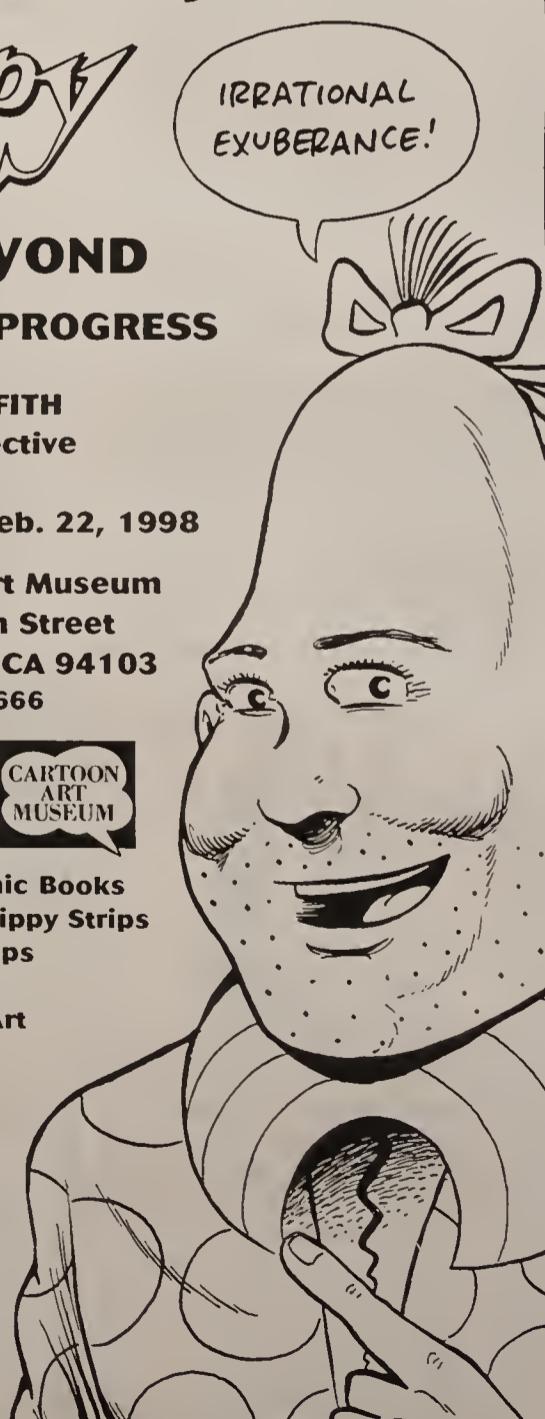
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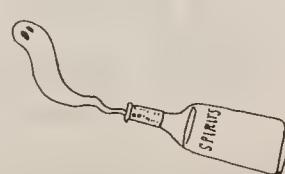
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Integral Yoga Institute Open House. Join us in celebrating 27 years in San Francisco. Hatha yoga classes at 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. worship service at 11 a.m. Lunch at 12:45 p.m. Walking meditation at 2:30 p.m. Video of Sri Swami Satchidananda at 3 p.m. All events free. Sunday, Oct. 12. 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

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In Search of Book Club. Looking for book club to join with interesting people. Fiction/nonfiction okay. Call Carolyn. 821-2752.

Therapy Groups for Women Only

- Outgrow your childhood wounds—understand how your past experiences affect your present.
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October 11: Laidley Street Block Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents at the southern end of Noe Street, from Harper to Miguel, hold their annual event. Dozens of sellers on one of San Francisco's most interesting streets. 695-1132.

Building Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building? Get the expert input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981, 25 years of experience. Reasonable. Free initial consultation.

Clean & Natural: Housecleaning. Quality work. Bonded. Free estimate: (415) 642-6280.

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Mr. Morgenstern Hauls All, reasonable or free in exchange for goods. What have you? 563-5354 or 560-3637.

Group Therapy for Women with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have an opening in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$30 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, (415) 661-7158.

Cat & Plant Care is in its 16th year of providing TLC to cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs. If you're looking for a reliable individual with local references, call Anna-Kajs (A-K) for a cat chat, etc. 648-8132.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to setup, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Furniture Wanted. I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Occasional Work Sought: Semi-retired proofreader (knowledge of French and Spanish); former legal secretary (Word Perfect 5.1); capable, reliable; seeks occasional work (proofreading, clerical, reading aloud, other) to supplement part-time job and small pension. Anne, (415) 522-2980.

Handyman/Carpenter. Repair a door, hang a kitchen cabinet, remodel a closet, add a room, build a fence or a deck, or even trim a tree. I'm skilled and do good work at reasonable prices. Robert, 550-4055.

New Lesbian Psychotherapy Group in Noe Valley. Monday evenings. Focusing on intimacy, interpersonal dynamics, self-esteem. Contact Linda Rose, L.C.S.W., for initial interview. (415) 643-3996.

Carpentry, Ceramic Tile, drywall, decks, finish carpentry, hardwood floor refinishing, painting. Reasonable prices, good references, free estimates. Call Brad, 627-4065.

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Expand Your Capacity to resolve life's challenges. Gain authenticity and clarity. Enjoy increased ability to develop gratifying relationships with self and others. Responsive, skillful, compassionate therapy committed to your growth. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. (510) 895-3592 (San Francisco office).

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Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

Free Introductory Meditation Class, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Two-hour psychic readings by appointment, \$35. Free Healing Fair Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. Psychic Horizons at 972 Valencia St. (near 21st). (415) 346-7906.

Walkin Waggin Pet and Plant Care by Carla. Located in Noe Valley. Love and attention, walks, play or sitting. Health care, feeding, and hygiene. Services for all animals (fish and horses too). Responsible, mature, fun, and smart. Animal caretaker/owner with 25 years experience. 648-3651.

long-term counseling are available at my Noe Valley office. Call Judith Rosen, Ph.D., M.F.C.C. (MFCC #18035) at 285-0262.

Fall Tahoe Getaway! Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Hiking, golf, tennis, swimming, boating, and beaches. Twenty minutes to South Shore casinos and shows. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam sauna room, living room with fireplace. Two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call 282-7955.

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Fatherhood—Is It for Me? Are you considering parenting? One-day workshops for men exploring this choice. Call for current schedule. Facilitators: Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C., and Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. 752-9165.

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Sunny, Secure 24th Street Psychotherapy Office. Available Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Call Christa, (415) 821-7832.

Rx for Writers: Individual help with poetry/fiction/nonfiction manuscripts by published writer and writing teacher. 648-7957.

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Loft for Rent: Work/Storage. \$400. Next to 4308 23rd. 821-1750.

Yoga and Your Back. A workshop for those who have had back problems or who want a better understanding of how yoga can keep the back healthy and supple. Bring a towel or mat, loose clothing, and an empty stomach. Thursday, Oct. 16, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

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Spiritual Growth, Humanistic Values: Classes and worship. Trinity Episcopal, Bush and Gough; Robert Cromey, priest and therapist, 1688 Bush St., Sundays, 9:45 a.m. adult class, 11 a.m. liturgy, (415) 775-1117.

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Costume Jewelry Repair. Repair, restore, revitalize. (415) 584-5547. Xenia (Zen Ya).

Considering Psychotherapy? A time of difficulty can become a time of growth—if you reach out and use the help and tools that are available. I'm an experienced, licensed therapist who offers a responsive, down-to-earth counseling approach for individuals and couples of all lifestyles. Both short- and

Housecleaner. Home and office. Experienced. Great references. Own car. Dolores, 665-4353.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings, private patio. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church. Oliver House, 695-0700.

Noe Valley House Short-Term Rental. Beautifully furnished and decorated, fully restored, sunny one-bedroom house in upper Noe Valley, available by the week (\$500/week) or month (\$1,800/month). Fully equipped kitchen/breakfast room features French doors and deck to terraced English cottage garden in bloom year-round. No smoking, no pets. (707) 433-6355.

Meditation Workshop. A practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Bed and Breakfast: Noe and Eureka Valleys. Garden studio. View. 826-1158.

Fight the Throwaway Society! Fact: Most non-functioning donations to charitable organizations end up in landfills. Help stop this pollution by selling or donating your unwanted technological objects to Recycled Technology, where they will be repaired and returned to the public. We accept TVs, VCRs, computers, faxes, stereo equipment or anything electronic, vacuum cleaners, power tools, small or large appliances, photographic and video equipment. We invite you to buy our recycled products at significant savings. Trades considered. Call our shop at (415) 282-SHOP (7467).

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Words Wanted: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Breath of Life Workshop. Pranayama (breathing practices) in the science of controlling the life force (prana) through the awareness and regulation of the breath. Pranayama can bring about dramatic improvement in overall health, increased vitality, emotional steadiness, and peace of mind. Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

UCSF Professional Woman, stellar references, non-smoker, seeks one-bedroom apartment, beginning 11/1/97. Day: (415) 476-8005; evening: (650) 685-8255.

Rosen Method Bodywork Practitioner and certified massage therapist with office in Noe Valley. For information about the benefits of Rosen bodywork, please call Jane Tatum at 643-0253 or visit the Rosen Web site at www.mcn.org/b/rosen/.

Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, therapeutic bodywork, medical qigong. Enjoy greater health, reduced stress and pain, rejuvenation, and more! Noe Valley and other San Francisco locations. Reasonable rates. Steven Cardoza, M.S., licensed acupuncturist. 826-9246.

How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by 30¢ a word, and enclose a check or money order for the full amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

Mail the ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month before the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad.

Discount for Repeat Advertisers: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the November 1997 issue, hitting the streets of Noe Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 29. The deadline for Class Ads is Oct. 15. The address is **Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114**.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept orders by phone or e-mail at this time.

However, you might like to know that the Class Ads in each month's issue of the *Voice* are also displayed on our Web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

The advantage of viewing them online is that you can search for key words, like *sublet*, *clean*, or *paint*. As an advertiser, you get month-long, worldwide exposure for your product or service. As a reader, you can scan the online ads even if you've recycled the newspaper.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

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Indian Music Concert. Habib Khan is regarded as one of the premier sitar players in the country today. He is as much at ease with light classical and religious music as he is with pure classical rendering of ragas. Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$15. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Weather Reports

By Mazook

OUR EL NIÑO SUMMER has been as hot and humid as some of the rumors circulating in Greater Noe Valley. By fall's end our valley should be drenched with rain (check your roofs) and front-page news in the *Voice*. Items to look out for:

Item: Many local cyclists have been pushing City Hall for a bike lane on Valencia Street. (Valencia is the flattest route for two-wheelers heading downtown.) But they've found their wheels spinning.

Item: The exhaustive debate between Hahn's Hibachi and its neighbors—over the smoke and barbecue odors emanating from the popular restaurant—is heating up again. The Planning Department has apparently determined that Hahn's is a full-service restaurant and therefore must apply for a conditional use permit. Will Hahn's jump from the fire to the frying pan? Are the neighbors licking their chops?

Item: Supervisor Gavin Newsom is trying to convince his fellow board members to allow those cafes and restaurants that already have liquor licenses to serve beer and wine outside. If they agree, we'll be seeing some big parties on 24th Street, that is, if the weather stays hot.

Item: Anybody out there a member of the Upper Noe Valley Democratic Club? The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation is looking into allegations that there is no such thing. If you know the answer, call the *Voice* (821-3324) and leave a message for Mazook.



FOR OUR NEXT ITEM: It looks as if the long-vacant market (it used to be St. Phillip's Market, and then a wine store) on 24th Street just below Diamond has finally been rented. Mullins Realty had been trying to rent it for nearly a year.

According to realtor Ed Mullins, most of the inquiries were from people who wanted to open either a restaurant or a coffeehouse. "When I told them that I did not think they could get the permits for such a use, they backed off," says Mullins.

Well, the ink is now drying on a lease signed by a secondhand bookstore. This should push the number of bookstores on 24th Street ahead of the number of video stores. Hurrah for literacy.



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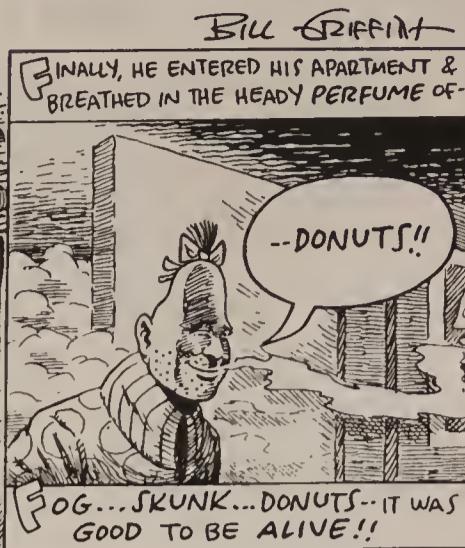
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ZIPPY



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Church near 29th. DeLeon says she has won approval from the Board of Supervisors and is ready to move.

DeLeon wants everyone to know that the landlord is not kicking her out. She didn't lose her lease. She's just transferring her rights in the lease. However, she will stay put until she's sure the new Thai restaurant that's taking over her lease and moving into her corner spot has received all of its permits.

According to a spokesperson for the restaurateur, Perin Pianpraserdcool, who operates another Thai restaurant on Monterey Boulevard, there have been three protests filed at the ABC concerning his application for a beer and wine license.

Word is that the ABC will soon determine whether or not to grant the application or hold public hearings. Stay tuned.



THE SAGA OF BATTLE MOUNTAIN, the series of skirmishes between neighbors and developers over a large parcel at 21st and Sanchez streets, is finally over.

As you Rumors readers know, there has been a three-year war over Seamus

McGee's plans to build four luxury single-family dwellings on Sanchez Hill.

Three of the four homes were approved and built last year, with the prized corner house selling for \$1.5 million.

A lawsuit between McGee and some of his neighbors was settled in early '97.

Well, on Aug. 25 the Board of Supes gave McGee the go-ahead to build the fourth house (facing Sanchez) by allowing him a "minor encroachment" across a 30-foot swatch of land owned by the city.

Major dirt was hauled off the hilltop in mid-September. And crews were starting the foundation. House number four should be erected by next summer, and will probably be 10 to 15 percent more valuable in Noe Valley's hot real estate market than it is today. When the dust settles, maybe everyone can have a block party.

Hopefully by that time the last item on the hilltop agenda will be completed: a mini-park memorial to Audrey Rogers, featuring a sculptured bench sitting in a landscaped area with a maxi-view.

Continued on Next Page

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Continued from Previous Page

Rogers was a Dolores Heights activist and preservationist who died in 1994. McGee has been working with her family and even volunteered a retaining wall.

The family has raised over \$13,000 and commissioned a wood carved bench to be installed in the two-tiered open space that is part of the public's right-of-way.



HAVE YOU NOTICED that the Department of Parking and Traffic has installed stop signs on Noe at its intersection with 23rd Street? There have been pleas from neighbors for years to make that corner a four-way stop. Caution to 23rd street drivers: Don't assume Noe drivers will stop. Old habits die hard.

Have you noticed the delightful elderly man bicycling up and down 24th Street

wearing a safety helmet and joint guards?

Well, his name is Ludwig Steinheimer, he lives at 14th and Dolores, and he's 90 years old. Ludwig has been biking for the past 25 years and says that he rides over to Downtown Noe Valley to pick up his medicine from Thrifty.

In other medical marvels: Dr. Michael McFadden, a local doctor famed for his house calls and drop-in clinic, is hanging up his stethoscope after practicing medicine for almost 40 years on 24th Street (next to the Rat and Raven Bar). His practice will be turned over to the group of docs at Dolores and 24th.

Congrats to Noe Valleon Bill Yenne, whose new book *Hidden Treasure: Where to Find It, How to Get It* has just been published by Avon Books. Bill and his wife Carol have lived in Noe Valley over 20 years, and Carol owns and operates the Small Frys children's clothing store.

Also, congrats to St. Paul's soon-to-be-constructed Elementary School, which was awarded a grant of \$300,000 from a respected charity foundation. The church needs all the support it can get in mounting this multimillion-dollar project.



ZIPPY AND BEYOND is what Noe Valley cartoonist Bill Griffith is calling his Zippy retrospective soon to go on display at the Cartoon Art Museum (814 Mission St.). The art show will feature original Zippy strips, and you will be able to "experience Zippyvision!" says Bill. Included in the exhibit will be early underground comic books and lots of animation art.

The show will run Oct. 15 to Feb. 22, so there's plenty of time to catch it.

My pagemate says that he is also in the early stages of an animated Zippy TV show that will be made by "a major cable TV network."

My question for Bill is: Who will do the voice of Zippy?



THAT'S ALL, YOU ALL. Have a sane and safe Halloween. Don't eat too much candy. And don't forget to check the roof. Bye, kids.



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The Birthday Gift

From *Tierra de Infancia*
(Land of Childhood)

By Claudia Lars

Translated by
Florence Beers Araujo

*I*close my eyes and it seems like it was yesterday.... The purplish stone was wider than the parlor sofa, and although its seat was not as soft, I found it perfectly comfortable.

Late in the afternoon, the back yard was a cool and quiet place. The horses had already returned to their stables, Grandfather's fighting cocks had closed their beaks, and the cooing doves had finally entered their little wooden houses. At that time, I usually sat on the stone in the corner to chat for a while with Cruz. I would always find him sweeping the shed with his old palm broom, and as soon as we saw each other, we would exchange warm greetings and smiles. While the man completed his task, I would watch him from my seat, humming a country tune. I knew Cruz belonged to the back yard—like the washbasins, the saddles, and cereal troughs—and I somehow guessed that it was there where the poor man sought a little solace and freedom during the evening hours.

Cruz had no age or surname—at least we didn't know them. Coarse, dark, and sturdy, but with a child's soul, his cotton pants barely concealed a massive froglike paunch. At times I thought that if he had allowed me to tap his belly with my fingers, it would have resonated like a drum. But because the Indian had such a good heart, perhaps his stomach would have sounded like a delicate music box.... Didn't my father say that appearances were often deceiving?

There was no one better than Cruz at making wooden tops, picking fruit, making reed cane flutes, flying kites, finding rabbit burrows or gopher holes. No one like him to take us on lengthy expeditions through the most fragrant paths, and to bring us back safely and punctually, with the sun as his only guide.



A 1940s photo of Claudia Lars shows her at the height of her beauty and artistic success.

THE LAST PAGE

Every morning, when Grandfather woke up, he would find Cruz ready with a knapsack full of provisions. The Indian would follow the old man over hills and plains, always eager to obey his master who, mindful not to leave his servant behind, would always ride his slowest mule.

"Why don't you learn to ride?" the other servants frequently asked him. "You are getting old, and one of these days you will not be able to accompany don Felipe."

"An Indian on his own two feet is a real Indian!" he would reply firmly.

Cruz would constantly lend adults a voluntary hand in their endeavors; his simple heart would always understand and forgive the children's whims or mischief. For these reasons, I would get upset at Toribia when she called him a "dumb Indian." Among the servants, Andrea was the only one who treated him with decency, and for that I believed she would go straight to heaven.



Claudia Lars' family farm in El Salvador was called The Three Ceibas, for its three tall cotton trees. This illustration appeared in a collection of Lars' work published in 1974.

I felt a special predilection for Cruz, and although I didn't show it with words, I often proved my affection for him with solicitous gestures. With my apron full of sugared figs, marzipan candy, or other sweets, I would quietly walk to the back yard and, sneaking up behind him, I would ask in a serious tone:

"Who can guess what I have in my pocket?"

"I know! It's a biscuit!" Cruz would say, his mouth watering with anticipation.

"Nope! You're wrong!"

"Is it a hot corn cake?"

"No again!"

"A calabash caramel?"

"That makes three no's...."

The game would usually end with the man closing his eyes and opening his gluttonous mouth, while I stretched my body as much as I could and finally popped the surprise on his tongue.

One afternoon, I began to talk about my upcoming birthday with my humble friend. Grandfather had already begun announcing it at the breakfast table—for the old man enjoyed domestic festivities more than any youngster—and Juana Morales had already marked it on the calendar. The thought of the presents I would receive made me talk like a parrot, and a tiny bell of joy rang through my words, turning them into silver and gold.

"We will eat roasted turkey," I said enthusiastically. "Toribia has been fattening it for a month. Father will buy me a Royal Goose game and Aunt Tere will give me a piñata."

"How nice!" replied Cruz, with a captivated expression.

Both of us kept quiet for a few minutes. The fork-tailed birds that had been dancing in the air were now resting on a nearby tree. Suddenly, I had an idea:

"And your present, Crucito?" I asked in a soft voice. "What will your present be like?... Because you're going to give me something very pretty, aren't you?"

The man stared at me, looking surprised and confused, but overcoming his emotions, he replied casually:

"I could give you some *pacunes*."*

"I have heaps and heaps of them."

"How about some capulin cherries?"

"Silly! I'm not a bat!"

"Then a sparrow's nest."

"No, because it's a sin to make the mama bird cry."

"Then...then..."

Cruz scratched the ground with one of his big toes, spat several times, smoothed his hair, and finally sat next to me. When my thoughts were already elsewhere and I had completely forgotten the conversation we had just had, the Indian suddenly turned to me and said:

"I know what I'm going to give you! But you're going to have to wait until nighttime, because my present belongs to the dark...."

"Oh, Crucito! Is it an owl?"

"Ha, ha ha! What an idea!"

Intrigued by what my friend had said, I returned to the house, knowing that my candid, innocent curiosity had greatly amused him.

The long awaited day finally arrived, and everything was better than I had expected. Cruz remained at the farm during the party, but I was too excited to notice his absence.

When night fell and Grandfather took his rocking chair out on the veranda and lit his best cigar, when my mother and Chica were going over the household accounts, and Toribia was washing the dinner dishes, Cruz appeared through the vestibule with a small package in his hands.

"Take it," he offered, "and see what's inside...."

I removed the string and began peel-



This is a present-day portrait of translator Florence Araujo and daughter Cristina, 7, whose illustrations will appear in Land of Childhood.

ing the little bundle: pink paper...yellow paper...green paper...

"Andrea added all that nonsense," explained the Indian, while I finished tearing the wrappings.

An ordinary cardboard box that had once contained some medicine was at last uncovered.

*shiny black seeds

Memories of Life in El Salvador

During a bout of illness in 1996, Noe Valley resident Florence Beers Araujo picked up a book she hadn't read in years. It was *Tierra de Infancia* (Land of Childhood), a 1958 autobiographical work written by her grandmother, Claudia Lars. Araujo was immediately thrust back to her own childhood in El Salvador, where she enjoyed a very close and loving relationship with her grandmother.

What began as a pleasant reminiscence soon became a labor of love: For the past 16 months, Araujo has been translating *Tierra de Infancia* into English. Araujo's daughter Cristina, a second-grader at St. Philip School, is drawing the pastel illustrations for the book, which will be published in the near future.

Claudia Lars (1899–1974) is one of El Salvador's most eminent poets. She published 16 volumes of poetry and *Tierra de Infancia*, one of the country's most celebrated literary works. Her final published work, *Poesía Última*, was written during the last years of her life as she struggled with breast cancer. She died at the age of 74.

Florence Araujo, who along with her husband Josef Araujo has lived on Jersey Street since 1989, is pleased to share her grandmother's only prose work with Noe Valley. "I believe this wonderfully diverse, family-oriented community will enjoy a glimpse of a different time and culture, where Salvadoran folklore is beautifully depicted through the innocent eyes of a young girl." *Tierra de Infancia* describes life on the family farm in Sonsonate, El Salvador, in the early 1900s. The chapter called "The Birthday Gift" is one of Florence Araujo's favorites.

"This is a joke, isn't it?" I asked disappointedly.

"Open the box," Cruz insisted timidly. "It's nothing, really, but I think you'll like it..."

I pushed the fragile lid and let out a delighted shriek. There, moving like living emeralds, a handful of fireflies displayed their intermittent green lights.

I hugged Cruz two or three times. I rumpled his coarse hair, kissed his ear, and even touched his frog belly. With the fireflies flying inside my little chambray skirt—folded and clutched against my chest—I ran toward Grandfather's chair, transformed into a moving lantern.

Time gave the memory of that night its true significance, and Cruz's name was treasured in my heart, purified by its own candor and forever surrounded by twinkling little lights....

Writers

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication on the Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.